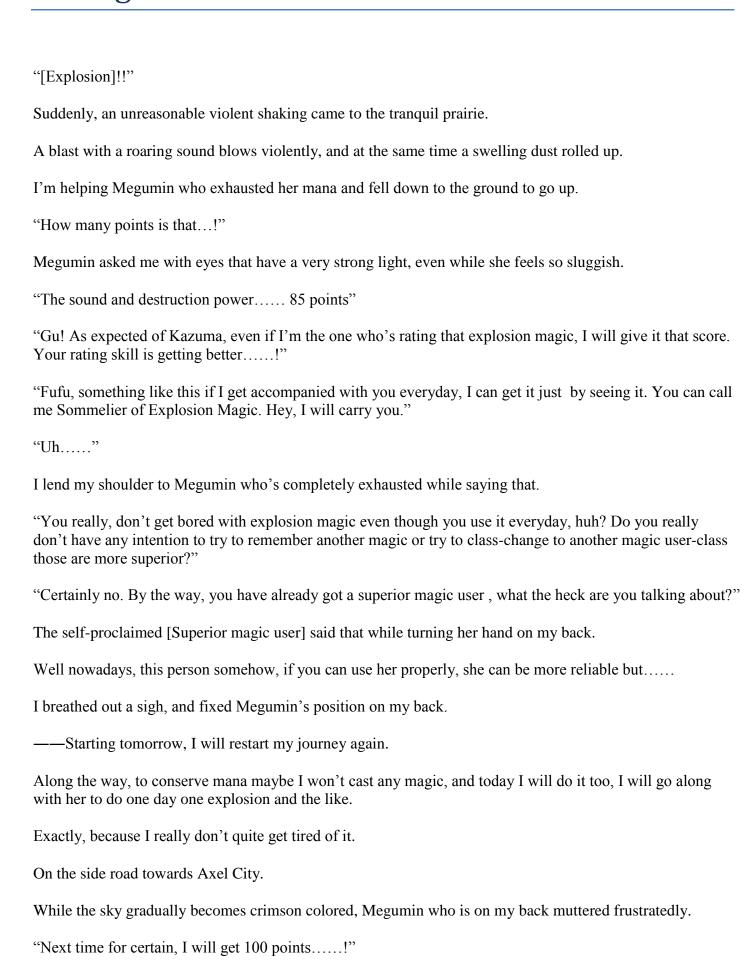








Prologue



Chapter 1 – Let's Give this Serious Letter a Decision!

Part 1

——I want Kazuma's child.

I stiffened at the words which Yunyun spat out passionately, while dripping out the black tea at the ends of my mouth.

In front of my eyes, Yunyun is clenching her fist and shivering with a red face.

It's not only me who becomes stiffened.

Everyone except me, has their mouth agape.

That's so sudden right, anyhow something that Yunyun blurted out is.....

"Hey, Megumin, can you wait a bit for this turn? If you let me fix my move once, I will give you this strange stone that I found at Arkanretia's hot spring"

..... Nope, there is someone who didn't read the atmosphere at all and doesn't listen when someone is having a conversation.

While facing Megumin who's stiffened, Aqua is holding a pawn while troubled.

After I collect myself, I wiped off the black tea on my mouth, and Darkness was still dumbfounded and tilting her cup, black tea is spilling all over the carpet. I left my cup on the table, fixing my neck towards Yunyun.

"......What did you just say?"

"I said 'I want Ka...I want Kazuma's child'!"

Yunyun answered my question with her face flushed red.

It looks like what I heard wasn't wrong.

"..... As for me, I want the first child to be a girl"

"It's, It's no good, the first child must be a boy!"

I thought she was a quiet girl but, it looks like she is a 'a person that will say what they need' -type.

However I have something that I can't just give up. If you are a man, surely you want to be called Papa.....!

"No, wait a minute, a girl or a boy... why did the talk suddenly progressed to that extent?...Anyways Yunyun, what are you blurting out all of a sudden!? Do you really understand the words that you just said?"

Megumin who regained her composure, stood up from that place spontaneously.

"Th-That's right, just like what Megumin had said, Yunyun was it!? I don't understand what is happening between Kazuma and you but don't lose your mind! Do you really know about what kind of man he is!?"

Darkness said something that badmouths me.

"Huh? Wait a minute!? Yep, right here! It looks like I must leave the person who is treated as a useless crusader right here.....!?"

Without knowing the uproar, a person with her own pace, Aqua is still holding that pawn while troubled.

Her opponent Megumin, grabbed Yunyun's shoulder and her whole body was trembling.

"Please come back to your senses... Anyway, there are times when you occasionally rush over to a conclusion and you become incapable of seeing what is in front of you! What the heck is happening? Please talk about it step by step!"

"Be-Because, Because!! If I don't make any children with Kazuma, the world will! And the Demon King will.....!!"

Although Yunyun was shaken by Megumin, she shouted words with a tearful face.

"Oh, I see, the world will..... Don't worry, you don't need to say it all. Just leave the world and demon king to me. If I make a child with Yunyun, the Demon King will be dealt somehow, and the world will be saved right? I don't have any reason to refuse a request from a troubled person."

"Oh! You! Even though when we beg you to take a quest, you resist it so much!"

"Truly! Despite usually never listening to our words, at times like this you suddenly become so considerate. Rather than that, please have some sense of crisis for this sudden development!"

"Be quiet—— what's wrong with you all since a while ago! This problem is only between the two of us right!? Any person who isn't involved should just be quiet on the sidelines! This is my very awaited popular season, don't disturb it!"

"This man even dare to lash back — anyway, I'm not uninvolved, if my friend gets involved with a strange man, I won't just watch from the sidelines!"

To silence Megumin who became more flared up, I continued even more.

"In the first place, despite always finding beautiful girls and women, until now there weren't any development which is even stranger right!? We are the heroes who fought with a great number of Demon King's army's boss, aren't we!? Somehow, we have already solved many incidents ,right! Soon, it wouldn't be strange if there are beautiful girls who deeply admire me, or an adventurer who come to ask my signature will appear right!! Oi, Darkness! If you are an important noble, hand over a medal for my achievements!"

"Y-You! If you think something like that, don't say it! You will make all of your achievements you gain from working hard become nothing!"

"C-Calm down! Sorry, it's my fault, p-please calm down!" Yunyun who sees the fight, says between us while being flustered.

"In this country, I heard that it's normal to marry around 16-20 years old! Or you can get married at 14 years old!? If Yunyun and Megumin are classmates, she's already 14 years old, right!? Then, there's no problem, isn't it! It's wonderful, it's WONDERFUL! I'm happy because the rules don't drag us! And I'm happy too because I'm won't be called a lolicon! I, for the first time came to like this world!! Anyway, what? You all,

do you like me? Are you jealous because I will start dating with Yunyun!? Then, say it honestly, you tsunderes!"

"This guy! Darkness, punishment! Let's punish this man at once!"

"Alright! Let's beat up this no good man who can only fast-talk!"

"Oh? Oh? Oh... you want to do it? You all never learn, huh! You know since I have Drain Touch, touching your body counts as self-defense! No matter what place I touch, it doesn't count as sexual harassment!"

I intimidate those two by opening and closing my hands as if trying to grope them and while I am provoking them, Megumin raises her eyebrow.

And now, it looks like Megumin wants to attack and with a *Kuikui* sound, her mantle starts to float from the corner.

"Hey, It's your turn Megumin, please look, I have confidence in this move. Hey, come here quickly!"

"Explosion!"

"Waaaaaa!!"

Megumin who's tugged by Aqua, flipped over the game board without looking while shouting Explosion.

"Uh.....Uh...... Should have prohibited the Explosion rule.....!"

I glance at Aqua's back while she is picking up the pawns which are scattered on the carpet while crying, and Megumin came here and took a stance with her staff.

"Even though I look like this, I always train hard everyday because I am aiming to become the strongest magician. For someone with low status like Kazuma, I can win this with ease without using any magic!"

"Oops, as expected, even I was offended by that. My speciality is, regardless of my low status, I have already exchanged fists with a great number of strong enemies. I can't possibly be left behind by this stupid explosion demon who can only remember one magic. That muscle brain crusader over there is no exception too."

"Muscle brain crusader!?"

When the atmosphere starts to look like a battle will begin soon, Yunyun's eyes start to become teary, and she suddenly shouted.

"Megumin! Please listen! Crimson Demon's village will....., Crimson Demon's village will disappear!!"

Part 2

"Excuse us for the poor tea."

"Th, Thank you very much"

While sitting down on the recommended sofa, Yunyun took a cup of tea from Aqua, and finally regained her composure.

".....So, What the heck is going on? Our village's destruction isn't something that can be taken lightly. So, can you explain the situation?"

After Megumin's words, Yunyun passed an envelope in silence. Megumin, who received that, found 2 papers inside the envelope. Letter When this letter arrives, surely I'm not in this world anymore. Looks like the Demon King's army who feared our power, will finally invade us for real. They're already in front of our village, and have established a military base. Not only that. Even with great number of underlings, they're still sending a Demon King Army's Boss that have strong magic resistance. Fufu...... That Demon King!, who sees us as a fearful beings. Currently as we are unable to accomplish the destruction of their military base, we are running out of plans. So, as the Crimson Demon Chief. Even if I have to throw away this body, I must fight until the end against the Demon King's army. My beloved daughter. Even if it's only you who remained, the Crimson Demon Race wouldn't cease to exist. I entrust the role of the chief to you.As the last of Crimson Demon Race in this world, to prevent our blood from extinction...... ".....is this letter from the chief, Yunyun's father? [......When this letter arrives, surely I'm not in this world anymore.]?" Megumin scanned the letter and her expression, gradually becoming more stern. That letter's content, will certainly be enough to upset Yunyun. They say around the outskirts of Crimson Demon Race's village, looks like Demon King Army's boss appeared, and with a great number of underlings, they established a military base. Moreover, it seems the boss is strong against magic attack. And currently, they are in a situation where they can't destroy the military base..... In the letter, by placing Crimson Demon Race's pride on the line, they said they will fight with Demon King

And.....

"[I entrust the role of the chief to you......As the last of Crimson Demon Race in this world, to prevent our blood from extinction......] Please wait a minute, however there is another one of Crimson Demon Race here!"

And, to the infuriated Megumin.

"Don't mind that part, please proceed! Because there is one more paper!"

Army's boss, and Crimson Demon Race's chief have already made his resolution.

Another part of the letter

According to village's fortuneteller, due to the raid of Demon King's army, he sees despair, that is the future of our village's destruction.

At the same time that fortuneteller, sees a light of hope.

The sole survivor of Crimson Demon Race, Yunyun, she concealed her wish to defeat the Demon King in her heart, and trains very hard.

On the town where she takes refuge, she meets a certain man.

And yet despite that man is unreliable and powerless but, she met her soulmate......

A man who won't do any work.

And Yunyun who gallantly supported him......

For Yunyun who trains from dawn until dusk, although living in poverty, it was a very blissful days.

And finally many months and days have already passed.

Between the sole survivor of Crimson Demon Race and that man, a child was born, and someday that child will reach an age where he can be called a young man. That young man, followed his father's footsteps as an adventurer, and go on a journey.

But, that young man doesn't know.

He, will become the one who defeats his family's enemy, the Demon King......

After Yunyun's words, Megumin read another page of the letter.

"[——According to village's fortuneteller, due to the raid of Demon King's army, he sees despair, that is the future of our village's destruction.

At the same time that fortuneteller, sees a light of hope. The sole survivor of Crimson Demon Race, Yunyun......]Therefore, why only Yunyun who remains? what about me!?"

"No, please proceed!"

"[The sole survivor of Crimson Demon Race, Yunyun, she concealed her wish to defeat the Demon King in her heart, and trains very hard. On the town where she takes refuge, she meets a certain man. And yet despite that man is unreliable and powerless but, she met her soulmate]"

Over there Aqua, Darkness, and Megumin stare at my face.

"..... Why, are all of you looking at me? By any chance, do you think about me as a man that is unreliable and powerless? Yunyun too, just with that information you came to this place?"

By my words, Yunyun averted her eyes.

"I will proceed okay? [And finally many months and days have already passed. Between the sole survivor of Crimson Demon Race and that man, a child was born, and someday that child will reach an age where he can be called a young man. That young man, followed his father's footsteps as an adventurer, and go on a journey. But, that young man doesn't know. He, will become the one who defeats his family's enemy, the Demon King.......]"

.....17,,,,,,

With those words, not only me, Darkness and Aqua too, gulped.

"O, Our child will defeat the Demon King.....!?"

"W, Wait! what kind of crazy story is that!? Oi Kazuma, It can't be, you who are very skeptical, wouldn't believe that kind of vague fortune-telling right?"

"Hey, I will be troubled too if it's like that! I, will be troubled if it's like that!!"

I was shocked by the great fate that was imposed on me and, I don't understand why Aqua and Darkness panicked.

......Huh?

What happened to you all? Perhaps, they all are really jealous?

H, Huh? Really?

Really, it becomes a bittersweet development,

"Don't do that kind of things intentionally, I really want you to defeat the Demon King quickly! You said I must wait until Kazuma's child to grow up!? Hey, how many years is required until a baby grows to a young man? Around 3 years old he won't lose right? If he lost, let's consider it that oracle never exists!"

Not even a bit.

Anyway, in 3 years, you, intend to make a toddler eliminate a Demon King, seriously?

"In the Crimson Demon's village, there is a very skilled fortune-teller! In other words, this oracle.....!"

"I understand, if it's like that, just leave it to me. For the sake of the world, It can't be helped"

"Y,You! Are you really fine with that!? Despite usually being an indecisive person, today why are you so manly!!"

While Darkness is grabbing my collar and bringing her face closer to my face, Megumin who has already finished reading the letter, said something while sighing.

".....This letter, on the last line, [Crimson Demon Race Heroes Legend Vol. 1 (Author: Arue)] was written"

With that one sentence from Megumin, I along with Darkness and Yunyun, turned our head towards her while saying 'Huh'.

Aqua suddenly take a peek at the letter.

Which one? Which one? Oh, each page's paper and writings are different. Maybe the first one is Yunyun's Papa's. And the second page, [P.S.: because mail service is expensive, I beg the village chief to send it in the same envelope. When the vol.2 is finished, I will send it again.] was written....."

"AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHH!"

Suddenly Yunyun takes the letter and, while screaming *Kusha she crumpled the paper into a ball and threw it.

While I was confused, towards Yunyun who is crying and prostrating on carpet, I said.

"Oi, what the heck is happening, explain it! Who is Arue? and what will happen to our child? What should I do? Is it okay for me to take off my clothes here? or is it okay too for me to take off my clothes in the room?"

"You can just go back to your room and sleep. Arue is, our classmate from Crimson Demon's village. What must I say..., she aims to become a writer and she is an eccentric person....."

By Megumin's words, Darkness make 'Ho...' expression on her face.

"Oh, it's just a story, huh. hmm? No wait, what about the first page of letter?"

"Is it not the real content,huh? Crimson Demon Race, because we are the sworn enemy of Demon King's army since long ago, well someday they will come I think. After all, they will come to our village and try to capture our village with all of their effort."

"Oi, Wait a minute, what must I do with my manly heart? Not only just giving me a hope, and after that you stir up my heart and it's all for nothing, you must be kidding me! What about Yunyun? From now on the relationship between Yunyun and me will become a bittersweet relationship, right!?"

"It won't. You, really are a disturbance, so just go and play with Aqua or something. Anyways Megumin, why are you so calm? Megumin, do you really not care about your family and classmate? Your hometown is in a pinch right?"

With the words of Darkness, Yunyun who was down and crying, raised her face.

"T, that's right! This is not the time to be crying! Hey Megumin, what should we do? I think the village is really under attack! What should we do!?"

Even with the words of Darkness and Yunyun, Megumin is...

"We are the Crimson Demon Race who are feared by the Demon King right? I think they will just be done in by the villagers easily. And also...... Since chief's daughter Yunyun is right here, it doesn't matter what happens to Crimson Demon's village, not only the blood of us wouldn't cease to exist. So, you can think of it like that. The villagers will be in our heart forever——"

"Megumin is so cold-hearted! Why each and every time, you think of something cruel like that!"

Yunyun with teary eyes, sees my face with a slightly red face.

"U, um...... I'm sorry for saying something weird like that. Wh, What must I say, The only man who I know, is only Kazuma....."

"O, Oh. No problem. Apart from that, what will you do from now on? Your hometown is in a pinch right?"

Yunyun, wiping the corner of her eyes while sobbing and...

"Well, For now I think I will go to Crimson Demon's village. Umm..., In the village, my f, fri,friend is there....."

She can't say friend clearly, maybe she even not close to them?

"Then everyone, sorry for the trouble! Umm..., Megumin too. See you next time.....?" Saying that, While sending off Yunyun who went out with a lonely face. "Kazuma, is it alright to let that girl go by herself? I thought you will trigger your pervert heart, and say [I will come with you] while putting up tough front, but..." "You will be attacked by Demon King Army's boss right? If I follow her to that kind of place, I will only become a hindrance right? And it's dangerous and scary too, we just came back recently, so as expected it's too bothersome.but Megumin, if you are worried about her, you can follow her you know?" "Th, This man, just before you insisted that you will become the hero who defeated every Demon King's Army bosses! Anyway, I don't have any reason to worry about Yunyun right? She is my rival right? She is like my enemy. " Megumin said that while facing toward another direction, while I and Darkness smirked. "Oi, knowing her, isn't she awfully restless since awhile ago?" "Don't say that Kazuma, and Megumin isn't honest either. Why don't you follow your heart's interests?" While we were whispering, Megumin gives out a fierce glare towards us. "Oi Aqua, you say something too.....please....." We turned over to Aqua, and yet... "Zzzz....." Over there, we see the appearance of Aqua who's sleeping deeply on the top of the sofa. It looks like the talk becomes slightly difficult for her.Eventually Megumin, secluded herself in her room on the second floor and still sulked. The one who remained in the hall, Darkness, turns over to me and say. "Hey Kazuma, are you really gonna leave it be? Umm..., the girl that was called Yunyun is Megumin's friend right? I hear she is strong but..... umm....." "It's gonna be alright. she is the real deal Crimson Demon Race who can use high-tier magic, right? Anyway, I think it's safer for her to be alone rather than with us. In any case, there is a person who's loved by undead inside our party." I say that, while looking at Aqua who's curling up on top of sofa, and spilling her drool messily. Moreover, Megumin is just pretending to be strong, after all within her is..... ———That night After the dinner, I'm idling in my private room, then I heard a modest knock. "You can go in—" The one who came in after hearing my reply is, certainly.....

".....Kazuma. I have to talk to you but, can you lend your time a bit?"

While mumbling something, looks like Megumin who's wearing pajama, is trying to say something.

"What's up? Coming at this hour? Does your soul burn in rivalry to what Yunyun declared so you came to *Yobai*?"

"I will beat you up! What I must say, ever since I turned 14 years old, somehow you're throwing sexual harassments without any brakes!"

Megumin whose face becomes red and raged, accepts it reluctantly while sitting cross-legged on the bed.

Megumin coughs once and...

"Umm..., That's right. I don't care about what happens to Yunyun, but. Actually I, have a little sister that was separated by age.

.

"Therefore, I really don't care about what happens to Yunyun but, I'm concerned about my little sister....., w,why are you smirking!"

To Megumin who blurted out a tsundere-like line, I smirked.

Part 3

The next morning.

I, who came to get the map of Crimson Demon's village outskirts, turn around to face everyone.

"Then, it's settled. This tsundere said she wants to go to her village, so I think I'll take a tour to that village."

"Who is a tsundere! Didn't I say it already? I was concerned about my little sister.....!"

I pressed down Megumin's head, who's getting pissed off, and interrupted her words

"Currently, it looks like the village is facing off with Demon King's army. So, after we check the village's condition from afar and if the situation is as dangerous as what the letter described, we will fall back. And if we found the Demon King's army in the middle of our journey, we will fall back too. And if we would engage in battle with monster, we will escape with our utmost power!"

"It's very Kazuma-like strategy, very pessimistic...well it is okay. Even though we just came back from our journey, with my own power, I will bring salvation to the villagers of Megumin's hometown!"

Because recently Aqua managed to eliminate a Demon King's army boss, looks like she have a very strange confidence, and she clenched her fist while saying that.

"Crimson Demon's village, huh... That place is a paradise overflowing with many strong monsters, right? Moreover, the Demon King's army are flocking together and they are going there to invade.....! Ah, what should we do when they captured us with their vast number! Hey Kazuma, when something like that happens, just leave me alone, I will be okay so just run away without thinking about me!"

"Rejoice, I will happily leave you there, so don't worry about that. And I will go home by myself!"

Darkness is saying something stupid, and without unpacking the contents, she carried the luggage we used on the previous journey, then we went out the mansion.

Normally we would rent a horse carriage, but actually I have an idea just for this trip. "Hey Kazuma, where are we going? Umm, aren't we going to the village together with Yunyun?"

"Yunyun have already gone with a horse carriage at the afternoon yesterday. Even if we chase her now, we won't make it. Besides, I'm fed up with travelling with horse carriages. Apart from that, I want to go to some place first."

——While I'm answering Aqua's question, finally we have arrived at the intended place.

".....Oh. This place..... Um, because I'm a crusader who serve Eris-sama, I don't really want to go here but...... After all, in this place ——"

"Welcome! The man, who despite having the easiest job to level up, is still the lowest level, and the girl, whose only her family name has been of any use lately! As for the delinquent Priest, who's overflowing with annoying light, and the joke race who can only use a useless magic, thou came at the right time!"

"This person is here...!"

"J-Joke race...!"

I was greeted by the clerk, who wore a suspicious mask, while he was cleaning the storefront, along with Darkness and Megumin who groaned in frustration because of his greeting.

I came here because I must finalize the previous negotiation that was postponed, and because I also have some business with Wiz, but......

While wrinkling my eyebrows, I ignored Aqua, who's trying to jab me secretly and went around my back, and I was pushed by Vanir to go inside the store.

I can't see Wiz's appearance inside the store.

In exchange, I can hear the sound of someone crying from deep inside the store.

While I was pushed by the suspicious clerk.

"You came at the right time', you said, then what? Are you stocking another weird products again? I will say it clearly, I won't buy this store's products."

"Don't say it like that! Even moi wouldn't want to buy junks every time. But thou will certainly like this"

Attempting to sell his wares, Vanir offered an item to us, who were inside the store, the item is a small box with opened lid.

".....? What is this?"

"Magic item to repel undead, huh? Just by opening the lid, this item is capable of repelling undead for a half day by leaking the divine aura. Look, isn't there an eccentric person who is liked by undead, right? In the first place, just having that person on your current journey, thou might encounter many hardships, right? If thou have this, you can sleep peacefully outside!"

"Wait, are you talking about me?"

Undead repel, huh. I can feel the usefulness of that thing just by hearing the description but......

"Then, what are the disadvantages of that thing? Surely there is something wrong in that right?

"There are no such things. If moi have to mention one, the price is very expensive as this thing is a disposable product. The effect is outstanding! After this box was opened, the shop owner won't come out from inside of the store, and she is crying all the time until now. It is a high performance item that is capable to that extent!"

"No, close the lid and ventilate the room! So, the cries I heard since earlier is from Wiz! Anyway, why is Wiz even buying that kind of thing? Well whatever, certainly it's very convenient, please give me one. It looks like I can use it immediately"

I opened my wallet while thinking of camping in the middle of journey......

"Thank you for your patronage! It's only one million Eris for one!"

"It's too expensive! If you sell it at that price, it's much better to fight the zombies who are swarming us!"

Ignoring my protest, Vanir starts to pack the new product to a bag diligently and said.

"Isn't it fine customer-sama? After all, customer-sama will become a millionaire soon! Currently, from the selling of your production rights to us, the profits has already reached 300 million Eris! This contract is fine right?"

He took out the contract letter, while saying that.

"300 million Eris.....! If you hand out that outrageous amount of money to him, won't he finally become a useless man who won't work! Wait, I think it's not that bad either....."

Darkness with a troubled face, murmured something incomprehensible on the corner.

And, Aqua along with Megumin, approached my sides and tugged on my sleeves with a smiling face.

"Kazuma-san Kazuma-san. I want a pool in the mansion."

"Because I want to increase my mana regeneration rate, I want a mana purification machine."

"Hold it, damn you money-hungry zombies. I think it's impossible to buy a pool and a mana purification machine, it sounds so expensive. For now, we must find any necessary items for this journey!"

While urging Aqua and Megumin, both of them gleefully started to look around for items inside the store.

The various products that I have developed, someone has decided to buy them in bulk.

I am a person that is easily involved in trouble some things.

Now, I suppose it would be better to think of how I can escape with this money in case of emergency.

After all in this town, just in one year, two dangerous beings like Demon King's army boss and Mobile Fortress Destroyer have already come, there's no better way other than taking precaution.

"—Then, the money for that Undead Repel magic item, just deduct it from my 300 million Eris. It will be much later until I can take that 300 million Eris, right?"

"Yeah. Sorry but, because of that dejected store owner, who is sobbing inside of the store, always buys unnecessary stuffs and increases our expenses. We don't have any money. Probably the money will be collected next week. And moi will gather all of the investor in this town"

Next week, yeah. On the next week, finally I will become a really rich person!

"And anyway, I have some business with Wiz, can you call her?"

I urged him, then Vanir with a disappointed face closed the box that leaked out white haze.

After opening the windows to ventilate the room, finally Wiz came out from the inside of the store.

Because Wiz has already messed up on the previous trip, and just the other day she nearly ascended to Nirvana, and with increasing pale colour on her face, she come and say "Welcome" and smiled.

"Hey Wiz, are you alright? Sorry for yesterday and today too. Today I'm not here as a customer, because I have a little request to ask of you, so I came to this place"

".....? A request for me?"



I gave a nod to Wiz, who is tilting her head.

I explained the situation about Megumin's village, and I also explained the things I want from Wiz.

"...Oh, It is okay to just send everyone to Arkanretia, right?"

For the trip to Crimson Demon's village, we need to go to Arkanretia first, and from there we go to the village.

Despite being an undead, this lich likes to take a bath, she has really taken a liking to hot spring because of our previous trip. So she has already registered Arkanretia as teleport point, before leaping with teleport.

While I and Wiz are talking about that, everyone else were looking around on products of this shop.

"He-Hey Vanir. Umm, what will happen if we use something like this Monster Gathering Potion? If we apply this on our body, what will happen then?"

"That's a potion for clothing use. Drink it and without exception, even stupid people in this town, thy parents, thy comrades, they will probably attack thee with disgust like seeing a monster. I recommend this product because it's a perfect match for thy personality. Does thou want one?"

".....I will be hated by my parents and comrades too, huh...... I will be troubled if I was hated like that, but if the potion's duration is only for a short moment, I will consider buying this......"

".....Ohh, This potion will increase a specific magic's effect but. Is there a potion that can increase the power of explosion magic?"

"Hmm, currently in this store, the potions that can increase magic's effect are only for [Curse Magic] and [Marsh Magic] that are left in this store. Curse Magic Potion can extend the effective range of magic. But there are some side effects, if you use that potion, both of you and your enemy will be unable to move. For Marsh Magic Potion, it has the same effect as Curse Magic Potion, but if you use it, the user will die by drowning too"

"Isn't that useless then? And what about these weird dolls?"

"Those are Vanir dolls. It was something that was made by embedding moi mask fragment, and it is moi masterpiece, which can make evil spirits run away. Currently, it's this store only hot sale. It has an outstanding effect by laughing in the middle of night. Even in thy mansion, it's not even an evil spirit anymore but a ghost living in there. what about taking one?"

"That effect of 'laughing in the middle of night' smells the most evil, doesn't it! And you said that there's a ghost in our mansion, Shouldn't our Aqua have already exorcised all of them?"

"Wait a minute, don't be like that Megumin, do you not believe my words!? I have already said it before, there is a girl ghost living in that mansion, right! Because she's a pitiable kid, I let that girl do what she wants, so I didn't exorcise her!"

"Hmm, okay. That ghost, occasionally drank Aqua's alcohol, I understand, I understand"

"Darkness too! Please believe me!"

S-So noisy.....

I'm concerned with my party mates on my back, then Wiz showed a face that would be shown when someone feels nostalgic.

"Crimson Demon's village right? Not long ago I went there to buy some goods. I tried to visit that renowned magic tools craftsman, Hyoizaburo-san, but unfortunately he isn't there....."

That's what she said, and Megumin, who is already next besides me since God knows when said "Eh?" with a small voice.

"Wa-Wait a minute. You just said Hyoizaburo right? I mean, when did you go to Crimson Demon's village?"

"The time I went to that village is..... Maybe it's about 2 years ago? That's right, when I visited that house, I met with a cute girl that looks like Megumin....."

After Megumin heard that, she hugged her head and crouched.

"What happened? Did something happen?"

"N-No...... Because my unnecessary actions, I think I ruined the negotiation back then....."

Letting aside Megumin's incomprehensible words, there are some clattering noise from the back.

"Don't touch our products, god of calamity! If thou touch our potions, our potion will become a mere water!"

"Why are you treating me like that, customer is a god right! However I'm a real god! You must show appropriate manners in front of a god!"

"Making our products useless, what are thou angry at, you god of poverty!? If thou make our products become useless anymore, moi will immediately kick thee out!!"

While I gave a wry smile to Vanir's jeers, Wiz is preparing the magic.

"Hey kid!" While I'm seeing them, Vanir whispered something to my ear. "Consider this moi gratitude for thy high value purchases. The all-seeing demon is warning thee. ... At the goal destination of this journey thy comrade will confess her doubts to thee. Depending on thy words the path she will take will change greatly. Thou should think well and give an advice that thee will not come to regret."

He said something with a very deep meaning. However, it smells very fishy for him to saying something like he will notify them.

For now, I silenced the complaining Aqua, and 4 of us gathered in one place.

"Then everyone. Please have a nice trip.....! [Teleport]!!"

Part 4

I open my eyes immediately after receiving Wiz's magic.

The view that was spread out in my vision is the town of water and hot springs, Arkanretia.

I thought I wouldn't visit this city anymore, so I can't believe that I would go back to this town after I just went home.....

"Hey hey, Kazuma-san, Kazuma-san"

"We will immediately leave this town. Because I don't want to get involved with your cultists anymore"

"Whv!!"

Just as what one would expect, I handled Aqua who wants to stay for one night in this city, and for now I decide to collect information about Yunyun.

Yesterday, Yunyun have already departed.

I think she would use horse carriages, but if you think about the distance from Axel until Arkanretia, it would take more than 1 day even if you depart on early morning.

It's just my calculation, but because Wiz's teleportation, I think we arrived more earlier than her.

......However, after hearing my suggestion to wait for Yunyun,

"Kazuma, I didn't decide to return to the village because I was worried about Yunyun, I want to return to the village because I was worried about my little sister. So, let's depart. I think she would be fine, and certainly without worrying about her, she will catch up with our pace"

Megumin said that with a wry face. It looks like she wanted to say that she did it for her sister until the end.

.....What a troublesome person.

Eventually, we stayed at Arkanretia just for a little while, and then we proceed to the village from the outskirts of the town.

Indeed, it would become a troublesome thing if we met an Axis cultist, I think it's good but..... there aren't any horse carriages which will go to the Crimson Demon's village.

That place is very dangerous, to the extent where we can't go to that place along with traders.

Above that all, people of Crimson Demon Race can use teleport magic to move from town to town freely.

So you can say that for now there aren't any needs for traders to risk themselves to go there.

"From this town until that village, it will take about 2 days on foot. There will be many dangerous monsters living around there, but for our countermeasure, we will rely on Kazuma's [Enemy Sensing] skill"

Arkanretia aside, we are heading towards Crimson Demon's village through a street which is still on maintenance.

If we camped in a place where many dangerous monsters are lurking around, honestly I think it's very scary.

We will reduce the distance as much as we can, while the sun is still high.

"Well leave it to me. While we are on this trip, we can hunt for small fries, right? Because back then, my level only rose once. Well because I had some skill points remaining, I used those points to get the [Escape] skill of the Thief-class. With this I can run away whenever I want."

"Hey, isn't that skill only effective on Kazuma? So you're saying you will run away alone whenever you want after you sense enemies, aren't you?"

It's so unexpected for Aqua to say something smart, and while we are walking through the highway in the order of Darkness as the vanguard, then followed by me, Megumin, and Aqua.

"Kazuma is from the adventurer-class which can raise their level easily right? Despite after unfolding that fierce battle with a Demon King's boss, your level only raised by one, huh? By the way my level has risen to 33 just by that!"

"Oi, stop flaunting your card, if you do that again, I will tear it into small pieces and throw them away. For you, you can perform a finishing move on the boss or defeating the small fries in one go, but for me, I only have one sword with a weird name and a bow to use as my only means of attacking."

While I was talking with her, we almost reached the forest.

Darkness, who is the vanguard, suddenly stops on her tracks.

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"......Wait, is someone there?"
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After hearing Darkness' words, we looked over there too and.....

On the entrance of the forest, there is a green-haired girl who is protruding on top of that rock, then she noticed us and waved her hand.

In this kind of place alone?

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.....Also, our eyes are drawn to her feet.
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There is a bandages stained with blood wrapped on that girl's right ankle, from a glance, she looks like she was scowling in pain.

Then, she was looking at us with upturned eyes.

Looking at that, one of my skill was giving a response.

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..... What could I say.
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.....In this world, what could I say? There's really nothing decent!

"Isn't she wounded? Hey, are you alright?" After Aqua said that, she tries to approach that girl, so I swiftly grab her shoulder to stop her.

Because of my action, Aqua and stupid Megumin along with Darkness are looking at me.

"My [Enemy Sense] skill caught a presence of a monster. That is a monster in disguise"

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"""Eh?"""
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I ignored that girl's gaze, who is looking at me with a sad face, while I keep increasing my wariness from afar, I took out the map for our journey to Crimson Demon's village, which I got from adventurer guild.

On that map, I see the information list for every monster that might appear from the town of water Arkanretia until Crimson Demon's village.

From that list, I search for a monster that matches this girl and.....

I found it. The name is [Anraku Shoujo]¹, maybe it's her name.

When I'm reading the information about that monster, Aqua said.

"Hey Kazuma, I think she is looking at you with very sad eyes. And I want to heal that girl"

¹ Anraku Shoujo literally mean Comfort Girl



When Aqua said that kind of thing and I'm still grabbing Aqua's shoulder, I skim through the explanation column for Anraku Shoujo.

"Anraku Shoujo. A plant-type monster that won't give any physical harm. However, she instills many passing traveler with a strong desire to protect her, and entices every traveler that approaches her. That temptation is very hard to resist, and once you fell for her, you will be captivated for the rest of your life. A theory says that the adventurer group who discovered her will live a hard life, so I'd like it if you could exterminate her"

"Oi Kazuma. S-Somehow she's looking at us with a face that looks like she's going to cry. Is that really a monster?"

Unusually, Darkness said that while being flustered.

"If a traveler is besides this monster, she puts on a smile that makes them feel deeply relieved, in other words, it will be difficult to separate from this monster. When they try to draw away from her, she shows a crying face to them. For every good-hearted traveler, I want to warn you about this monster before you get captivated by her."

"Ka-Kazuma, That girl is desperately trying hold her tears with a smiling face and waving her hand in farewell. Is it no good for me to hug her?"

I released my hand from Aqua, but in exchange, I grab Megumin's nape, who said that.

"Once you are captivated by her, you will want to softly cuddle her, and it's difficult to brush this off. And, maybe some traveler thinks that they will just leave that place after they got hungry, but the most dangerous thing is that this monster distributes fruits to travelers by plucking it off from their own body. The fruit is really delicious and it can fill up your stomach. However, because this monster's fruits have no nutrition in it, you will soon become emaciated even if you eat that fruit as many as you can. Travelers who sees the appearance of a girl cutting and giving the fruits from their own body, they will build up guilty conscience and soon receiving food will become very hard for them, and die by malnutrition.

"Ku.....! Even though it's a monster, I can't leave any wounded person alone....."

Darkness, who can't withstand it anymore, approaches Anraku Shoujo.

Because this thing doesn't cause any harm as written in the explanation, I let Darkness do what she wants, and I read furthermore.

"And if you continue to eat Anraku Shoujo's fruits, it probably contains components that causes anomalies in your nerves, eventually intercepting danger signals like hungriness, drowsiness, pain, etc. from your body to brain. Therefore, you will cuddle together and go to the dreamland then gradually weakening until you're dead. And because there are many old adventurer seeks a peaceful death, so there are many case of them going to this monster's habitat to seek death, and for that reason this monster was called Anraku Shoujo. After that, Anraku Shoujo will place their roots on top of the travelers' corpses, and use them as nutrient—"

..... I stopped after reading that part.

Megumin, who has already released herself from me since God knows when, along with Aqua are running towards that girl.

Everyone despite having already heard that the opponent is a monster, they're still approaching her although it's not confirmed yet that it's safe to approach this girl, nevertheless they're still equally restless.

And Anraku Shoujo stares at those three girls with eyes that were dyed with "By any chance, do you want to be together with me?" expectation.

Have they gotten themselves ingrained with a desire to protect that girl in their heads just with those eyes? Their arms are restless.

"At least she looks like a plant-type monster that won't inflict physical harm. But I can't imagine that this monster stops every traveler with a desire to become her guardian, and make them die by starvation"

Hearing my words, those 3 girls came closer to Anraku Shoujo with a relieved face.

..... Do they really hear about ".....and make them die by starvation" part?

"Because I will heal you now! Huh? This is not a wound. And this is not a bandage too, to make it looks like the real stuff, you were using mimicry"

After Aqua' words, I too am looking at that girl, who is coming closer.

Something common in town, Anraku Shoujo wears an outfit normal for girls.

While barefooted, she was surrounded by everyone, and she gladly smiled.

After looking closely, I realized that the rock where she sat on is also a part of her body using mimicry.

There are branch-like things extending out from behind the rock, and some small fruits are growing over there.

The outfit she used too, and that blood-stained bandage too, those all are mimicry used to attract human.

That thing is feigning to be a wounded girl who cannot move, how vicious.

That thought aside, those three girls pampered Anraku Shoujo

Megumin reached out her hand gently, and Anraku Shoujo, despite showing a very "Is it okay for me to take your hand?"-like anxious face, is trying to reach Megumin's hand.

Then, holding Megumin's hand tightly, and from the bottom of her heart she smile gleefully.

..... That expression now, made those three girls fall completely.

I heard that Crimson Demon's village is dangerous, but this thing is dangerous in another meaning.

I remember clearly the warning that was written on the monster information.

[For every good-hearted traveler, I want to warn you about this monster before you get captivated by her] This warning.

[A theory says that the adventurer group who discovered her will live a hard life, so I'd like it if you could exterminate her] then this one sentence.

I stand before Anraku Shoujo, and I unsheathed my pseudo-Japanese katana, Chunchunmaru.

"Wait, what are you trying to do Kazuma! You, it can't be, you're not intending to kill this girl to increase your experience, are you!"

After seeing me taking a stance, Aqua said that while covering Anraku Shoujo by hugging her.

W-Wait, that thing is a monster.

Furthermore it's the type that takes a human's life.

"Even I would know Anraku Shoujo's name. Certainly, you can't injure this kind of monster that have a girl's appearance, can you? I have already evaluated Kazuma as a demon of *Tirthika*, but you always think about your comrades, and I know you also have a gentle side. You wouldn't do that kind of thing. You wouldn't right....."

While holding Anraku Shoujo's hand, Megumin is looking up to me with begging eyes.

This is like children picking up a stray kitten, and begging their parent, who didn't allow it.

.....M-me too, I'm not doing this kind of thing because I like it.

Darkness came back to her senses after feeling anxious before, does she finally remembered that the opponent is a monster?

".....No. I should follow Kazuma's decision to exterminate her. I thought she was wounded but after taking a closer look at her, this monster doesn't have any wound. That is if we assume this monster is an exceptionally sly monster. If we leave this monster alone, in the future there might be unnecessary damages."

While saying that, she unsheathed her large sword, and taking stance towards Anraku Shoujo.

Then Anraku Shoujo says something in a small, hard to hear voice like a child who can't talk properly.

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".....Kill....me...?"
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Anraku Shoujo is clinging on Megumin's hand with both of her hands, looking up to Darkness while she is still sitting on the top of the rock, and her tears start to flow on her face while she was trembling.

It can speak huh.....

Holding the large sword while shaking, Darkness looks at me with the same expression as Anraku Shoujo.

What should I do if you look at me with those eyes too.

Pushing aside Darkness who can't move, I hold the unsheathed katana with my hand in the front.

Seeing that, Aqua stands before Anraku Shoujo while repeatedly throwing high jabs cautiously towards me just like shadow boxing.

.....This person, despite being a goddess, she was the first one to be fascinated by the monster, what should I do?

With an anxious face, Anraku Shoujo who was looking up towards Megumin who holds her hand, now looks at me fearfully.

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".....Kill....me...?"
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I look at that girl, who is looking at me with teary eyes while tilting her head, it's gouging out a deep part of my heart.

Those three, and one monster are staring at me.

Please bear with it, this monster robs human lives.

If I leave this monster alone, someone else might become a victim, and I don't have any intention to say this
thing is beautiful, but this, it might be bad to leave it alone, isn't it?

Or perhaps, it's much worse to exterminate her?

Guuuuuuuu, Naaaaaaaaaaaaaa ——

I stabbed my katana on the ground, and while scratching my head feeling lost, Aqua said something.



[Kazuma, any decision you make when you feel lost, whatever you pick will certainly be a regretful thing. Then, you should just pick the most pleasant decision.] Screw your advice! Isn't that just what a loser would say. However I want you to wait, there's another reason I wouldn't leave Anraku Shoujo like that. It's about Megumin's village. From here on, there are Demon King's boss and underlings, waiting ahead on our destination. My will to fight is already gone, but just in case, I want to raise my level even just by a little bit. This Anraku Shoujo is a monster that lived in a dangerous area, so probably I would get a lot of experience for defeating this. Those three girls are staring at me, who are conflicted. And, the anxious Anraku Shoujo too. I have a just cause. I must hunt this monster, and I would use this "there will be more victim" as my reason.Aaaaaah, damn, it can't be helped, please forgive me! Yeah, although this monster has human's appearance, she is still a monster, monster, monster.....! Anraku Shoujo muttered to me, who was conflicted to no end. "You, hurted...... Sorry, because, I, living....." Anraku Shoujo was saying that, while giving a transient smile and. "Because, I, Monster...... If I lived, placing, burden....." Anraku Shoujo gush out her tears a bit. "Since born, for the first time, I can, talking with human like this....." Like a prayer, she placed her hands on her chest and linked it.

"For the first time, and for last time meeting, you is fine.If, I will reborn..... for the next time, not a monster, it's great....."

After saying that, as if prepared for it, she closed her eyes.

.....There's no way I can kill her.

Part 5

We left the Anraku Shoujo as is, and walked on highway.

I don't care anymore.

Maybe in the future there will be more victims, but I can't kill that girl-type monster, who can say that kind of line, I'm not a human life supremacist after all.

.....Probably, that Anraku Shoujo will lead many passersby astray.

After we left her, everyone's hair behind their head is so messy like after being pulled, it's because Aqua and Megumin didn't want to continue the journey, it was really troublesome.

Damn, even if I leave her or defeat her, it will still leave a bad aftertaste, how vicious.

But, that's it, she said it was her first time talking with humans, and maybe nobody will become her victim.

So, even if I leave her..... Is it really okay.....?

"-But, it's good that Kazuma still has some of his human's heart remaining properly. Because when you said you would kill her to increase your experience bar, I thought that after you kill her you will burn her using tinder."

"You..., What do you always think about me? Seems like we need to talk. You all know that I wouldn't do that kind of thing, right?"

While saying that, I look at Megumin and Darkness and.....

(())))))

The two didn't say anything, and they averted their face from me awkwardly.

I really want good comrades that will properly understand about me.

......Huh?

"Oi, Wait a minute. Isn't that road dangerous? There's that Anraku Shoujo over there after all."

A good comrade, So, I remember about Yunyun, who will pass that street after us.

That girl has no friends, shy and lonely, but she pays more attention to her surroundings more than a normal person when someone passes this road.

The Anraku Shoujo we met said that it was her first time talking to people.

So as expected, it's certain that Yunyun would be later than us.

"Why do your face's color look like Wiz? Got a stomachache? There is a bush over there. I will keep my distance from you, so, go"

"It's not! You guys please go ahead without me! I will go to Anraku Shoujo's place, I have to talk with her for a bit!"

"Eh, W-Wait Kazuma!?"

Hearing Aqua's puzzled voice, I run towards the road that we had already walked on.

Part 6

It's not too far yet from Anraku Shoujo's place, not even 5 minutes have passed. If I run, I will arrive immediately.

It's a bit selfish, but let's begs to that girl. If a girl with crimson eyes passed by, don't wave her hand and smile.

While running, I thought furthermore. That's right, if the persuasion is working, maybe it's good to try to beg her to stop inviting any traveler.That's right, that's right! Asking the authorities from Axis cultist in Arkanretia, to help that monster live without attacking any human, by asking them to give nutrition to her regularly or..... And after all it had already been confirmed that I will become rich after coming back to the town. Well I don't mind paying for her food. While I'm returning to that place, satisfied with that thought..... —At the earlier place, I saw the appearance of Anraku Shoujo talking with another person. I immediately use Hide skill, and watch the situation with Farsight skill. The one who is talking with Anraku Shoujo was a young male lumberjack. Is he a lumberjack living in Arkanretia? The lumberjack with an axe in his hand was walking towards Anraku Shoujo. Possibly, does he want to exterminate her.....? Leaving Hide skill as it is, I lowered my body and after coming closer to her, I immediately strain my ear to listen in on the conversation. After that, I heard a man's voice. "Aah..... Damn..... Sorry, Sorry! Please pardon me! It is said that if I ever found you, I must exterminate you, it's the decision of all lumberjacks.....!" That was lumberjack's crying voice. As expected he wants to kill her, huh! In a hurry I released the Hide skill.....! "Because, I, Monster..... If I lived, placing, burden....." Right before I almost released it, I heard the same lines as before, "Since born, for the first time, I can, talking with human like this....." Every one of those without any difference, "For the first time, and for last time meeting, you is fine. If, I will reborn..... for the next time, not a monster, it's great....." Anraku Shoujo said that to lumberjack. "Ah..... Aah..... I can't, I can't, DAMN!!" The lumberjack shouted, turned his body and ran away.

I was dumbfounded, and without releasing Hide skill, I stood silently in tree's shades.

Huh.
Didn't she say it was her first time to talk with human?
"Aaaa, a failure again, that lumberjack's flesh texture is great and I thought he would become delicious nutrients for me"
After the lumberjack had gone, I heard Anraku Shoujo's fluent monologue.
I circled behind Anraku Shoujo, and released the Hide skill.
However Anraku Shoujo haven't realized about me yet,
"*Sigh* Damn, food isn't coming It's cloudy, but it can't be helped I will do photosynthesis for now AhhIt's troublesome"
While she is mumbling, to bath in the sunlight all over her body, she stretches her body while saying "Uun"
Bending her body, her eyes met with me, who am right behind her.
(c) , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Staring at each other speechlessly, and finally Anraku Shoujo said intermittently.
"Just now, can you make it like it never happened, can't you?"
"You have been talking fluently just now, you fooled meeeeeeeeee!"
—When I chase after Aqua and the other, all of them were probably waiting for me. They are still in the earlier place and resting.
Seeing my face after I rushed over to them, Aqua put up a smile.
"Somehow you have a refreshed face! What happen? Something happened between you and her? In the first place, why are you going back there?"
Look toward Aqua, I showed my adventurer card gleefully.
"Look at this! My level raised by 3 in one go! With this even if we go to Megumin's village, I would be useful!"
By my words, those three girls stiffened.
And
"Wa Waaaaaaaaaaa! Kazuma is a demon! Heathen demon! You are such a demon that even makes Vanir look very cute!"
"AhAah Aaaaaaaa It's my fault Because I mocked Kazuma and flaunting off my level that raised a lot So, he was provoked, and then he killed that girl with his own hands! B-Be-Because I was carried away; he did something like that!"
No, Wait.

And, I want to explain my reason to these two who are crying, I realized Darkness, who is standing still without saying a word.
I tilt my head towards Darkness and.
"It's painful right? You have fulfilled your adventurer's obligation. Sorry, for only pushing an unpleasant role to you"
Darkness bitterly said that with a serious face.
——Despite I have already explained the situation to these three girls, it still took one hour for them to understand.

Chapter 2 – Let's Make these Beast-eared Girls into my Harem!

Part 1

When the veil of darkness have come down, along the surface of the highway, after we removed a big rock we spread a sheet to make sleeping easier.

This sheet is as big as a picnic sheet, well, we used it as a picnic sheet instead.

The monsters around here are strong.

Well, it would be troublesome if they approached us because of light, so without igniting a fire, in the middle of darkness, we sleep by huddling together

I opened the lid of Undead Repel that I bought from Vanir, then moved everyone's belongings to the middle of sheet so that we could rest and huddle together on it.

Maybe because today is cloudy, we can't see the light of the stars.

I am currently using Farsight skill for night vision and Enemy Sensing skill too, so that even in the middle of this darkness, I can still sense monsters.

Nevertheless, it has been decided for me to be always on the night lookout.

Since it will be a problem for me to do it alone, everyone except me will rest in shifts.

"..... Kazuma, is it really alright for you to not sleep? Certainly, I'm really grateful for you to stay awake since your special skill but....."

Darkness is saying that in the middle of darkness.

"Don't worry about it. I am very strong at pulling all-nighter. In the country where I previously lived on, I do all-nighter all the time"

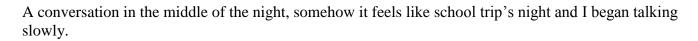
Megumin reacted to my words and.

"By the way, what country are Kazuma and Aqua living before? I want to hear stories about Kazuma's country. Just by looking at so many products you have already developed, looks like your country has many useful magic tools. So I'm curious about what kind of life Kazuma had there. What kind of life you had gone through to have specialities such like strong at all-nighter on your body?....."

Hearing Megumin's words, looks like Darkness also has some interest, because I feel like someone is taking a peek from the sides.

What kind of life, huh.....

In the middle of quiet darkness, I was remembering the days when I was living in the peaceful Japan.



"Well..... I was a ranker in my country"

".....? Rankaa?""

Megumin and Darkness said that at the same time.

The people in this world didn't know about ranker, huh.

"It means a person with a high rank. I was called [Rare Luck only Kazuma-san], [Kazuma-san, who is there every time I logged in] and...... Well, many nicknames were placed on me, being relied on by many people. Assaulting a fortress with my comrade-in-arms, hunting a big shot boss, it is very blissful...... Something like an all-nighter is normal. Without eating any decent meal, sleeping for only 2 hours every day, and after that I return to hunt monsters again......"

With those words, both of them leaked a sigh of amazement from my sides.

"A-Amazing..... Assaulting fortress, hunting boss, and I see, these things were the source of experience for your quick-wittedness! A-Amazing.....!"

Darkness said that like having a great respect towards me while being excited.

"I can't believe this story is from the usual Kazuma but..... Somehow, I can't feel any lies in those words. For the current Kazuma, I feel the confidence and nostalgia from those words....."

Megumin said that kind of thing too.

Aqua, who is right behind me, says.

".....Hey Kazuma, what you said is about net game right? Is it okay for me to retort about it?"

"It will be helpful of you to stop"

Part 2

I said to Darkness if something happen, she must wake me up immediately even if the method is a little rough. And she had already promised me that she will wake me with an amazing way, that's with a single blow, so I am together with Megumin did the watch.

".....Umm, what do you mean about an amazing way to wake up? Just in case I will say it, don't cross the border between comrades okay? It's fine, right?"

"The living being you called a man is, a being that will want cross that border even more if you say not to cross it, and if there's a wall that must be surpassed, they will want to surpass it too...... Yes, they will try to surpass anything blocking their way in life even though it's like a tall wall or a big mountain. It's the same for that."

"No, it's not! Please don't lump it together with such good lines! Because I get dangerous vibes if I have to stay besides you for the lookout!"

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It will be bad to wake her up, so both of us became quiet spontaneously.
And finally we start to hear a calm sleeping breath. After hearing that, we breathe out in relief.

Agua rolls over her body while mumbling because of the excited Megumin's words

Megumin said that with a small voice.

"By the way, it's something I want to ask since before they go to sleep..... Kazuma came from another country, right?Umm. Kazuma, are you going to return to your homeland?"

She asked that fearfully.

"By the way....."

"Anyway, even if I want to return to my home, I can't. Well, even if I can it's only me going back to my carefree life again. Nowadays, I start to feel that for now my life isn't that bad either. When we come home from Crimson Demon's village, I will receive 300 million Eris from Vanir. If it's like that, I will become rich in one go. And after that, let's have a fun and interesting life with everyone"

There's no big difference for becoming NEET in this world nor japan.

Burdening your parents, or not burdening them.

Other than that, in Japan there are games and PC, but in exchange, there's no succubus service there, I can only think that's the difference.

Defeating the Demon King and returning to Japan.

Somehow, only recently I'm thinking about how absurd that is.

Moreover, even I want to see my parents face, I can't because I'm already "dead" in Japan after all.

It looks like if I defeat the Demon King, any wish can be granted, but I wonder if that side will be adjusted well?

Feeling relieved from what I said, Megumin breathe out in relief.

"Is that so..... because I like the current life too, it's fine to stay like this. Although often in a pinch, but we will manage somehow with everyone, so I'm satisfied with this current fun lifestyle."



"Together with everyone, I want for it to stay like this forever" Megumin came closer to me and held my left hand tightly in the middle of darkness while letting out her relieved breath. Feeling Megumin's cool hand. While feeling that, I... I wonder why, I became extremely nervous. No way, what's this bittersweet development! What should I do? What's wrong with her? Why is Megumin holding my hand suddenly out of nowhere? Yunyun's declaration of child making is fine, but as expected my popular season really has arrived right? Just like the revolving lantern, I recall my bittersweet memory. When I was an elementary school student, my first love is my female childhood friend, she promised me [When we grow up, let's get married]. On the summer of middle school 3rd year, I saw that girl riding behind a delinquent senpai's bike. I, who can't say anything, didn't want to go to school anymore and immersed myself in net game. After that, I gradually cut down my sleeping time and put my efforts to exterminate monsters all the time, unnoticedly people who didn't know my name became fewer and fewer but..... Spending that precious time in my life for self-training, I wasted my school's youth life, and now experiencing something like this, sitting with a beautiful girl at a distance close enough that our shoulders are almost touching, and holding hands. What is this? I'm in danger! What should I do in this situation? Am I being invited? Is it okay for me to say a witty line for this mood? Up until now I never thought anything about Megumin, and of course even now, there is no such thing as romantic feelings for this loli. But for a virgin without any immunity towards girls, suddenly facing a situation like this from the opposite sex, they wouldn't be able to hold their conscience, right! When I almost blurted a witty line without any intent..... I noticed something. "......Wai-!" Ignoring my nervousness and conflicted feeling, she released a peaceful sleeping sounds.This braaat!

".....Last night because Kazuma and Megumin are really noisy, I can't sleep at all."

"Sorry for being noisy, but it's this loli's fault for sleeping in the middle of the watch. Moreover, although you said to wake you up when your turn comes, you didn't wake up at all. And eventually, Darkness took your turn."

"No, when Megumin fell asleep in the middle of the watch, I heard Kazuma woke her up in an amazing way, so I wondered what should I do if I fell asleep in the middle of the watch with him, therefore my heart was beating so fast that I can't sleep....."

"Uu..... He did some ridiculous things to me....."

Since last night there was some commotion, we welcome this peaceful morning.

After we finished our breakfast, we proceed light-heartedly while arguing about last night, however.....

"So tired....."

I stopped in the very middle of the highway and muttered that.

In front of my eyes, I can only see a vast plain, so I was dumbfounded.

If I walk in a wide place without any cover like this, I can't use my Hide Skill.

I can only rely on Megumin, but if we fire a magic in an open space like this, it can't be helped that other monsters might come to this place after hearing that sound.

However, we can't go to Crimson Demon's village if we don't go through this place so.....

Even if I try to perceive a monster with Enemy Sensing skill, in an open space like this, by the time my skill reacts, we would've already been found out by them so.....

It can't be help, it's time for Farsight skill.

Without relying on Enemy Sensing skill, if I can found the monster with my bare eyes before they found us, it will be okay.

"Oi, I will go ahead alone first, so you all will be able to run away anytime. Aqua, at that time, I request for you to use Speed Increase of support magic on me so we don't get caught up"

Just in case, even if we got found out by a monster, I have the [Escape] skill, which I learned the other day, so if I got that support magic, I can become a decoy to attract the enemy, after that I will separate from them to a faraway place, find a shadow somewhere, activate Hide skill, and wait for it to pass.

I unequip my breastplate, gauntlets, and greaves, and pass them together to Aqua. And just in case I want to equip some light equipment.

Entrusting all of my belongings, I leave some equipment to make running easier and a dagger, and giving the rest to Aqua.

"Already planning to run, huh. How manly of you"

After such words like that from Aqua.

"I have no intention to fight with any monster in this area directly. Even if I can search for monsters' information in the list, there are so many dangerous sounding monsters. Even if it's only against one monster, avoid battle as much as possible, always choose to escape"

On the monster information list, I can only saw very strong sounding names on that list like One-shot-a-bear Griffon, Fire Drake, etc.

No, there's one exception.

It's a mainstream name and often appears in games and mangas too, usually classified as a small fry monster, but.....

While I think it's okay for me. If I somehow encounter that thing, I will go ahead before everyone.

"Well then, follow me but keep a safe distance. Keep it to the extent where you can see me from afar. If something happens I will send a gesture.

After that, escape without wasting any split of second"

"Understood. Just leave this to me"

"I already understand that gesture won't even reach you. Darkness, Megumin, I leave it to you."

Megumin and Darkness nodded at my words.

Part 4

There's only a single road extending on this vast plain.

I walk through there alone.

Looking around the vicinity nervously, ensuring I don't overlook any monster's shadow.

I occasionally turn back to confirm those 3 are following me, who is proceeding carefully on this plain.

It's going smoothly for now.

The monster I'm especially cautious of is the one that chases people from the sky.

Among this list, the only monster that matches that is Griffon, but even if I look at the skies, I don't see any shadow flying around here.

We have already discovered a number of huge monsters from afar, so we easily get past them.

It's going well.

After we pass through this plain, it's fine to regroup again.

.....And.

Right in the middle of the plain, I saw a figure standing alone there.

Looks like that figure haven't noticed us yet.

However if you think about it normally, there's no way for a human to be standing alone in this kind of place.

That's right, that thing is probably a monster.

While still from a long distance, I predicted that monster true identity.

Among the dangerous monsters inhabiting this place, there's only one out-of-place name on that list.

[Orc].

Having a pig's head and a bipedal-type monster, a living being with a very high fertility rate all year long.

It can mate with most of human-type creatures, and if you are caught by them, I heard they will make your life miserable.

If you are in a situation that looks like you will be caught, it was said that it's better to commit suicide immediately. It was that kind of monster.

In a certain genre of game, it's the same type as kobold or goblin, a really mainstream small fry monster.

Why is their name written in this area's monster information list?

If you compare them to those big monsters that we have already avoided, there's no need for us to purposely take a detour.

I only have a dagger, but after seeing the opponent, it didn't bring any item that looks like a weapon.

I can drain my opponent life force with Drain Touch, and more than anything there's only one opponent.

Maybe because after getting closer to it, I feel I can kill it with a single attack using this dagger.

After I made my decision, I approached that figure, which can be seen from far away.

There's no need for me to hide my body, and without any hesitation.

There's no place for me to hide my body in this vast plain anyway.

When I'm already quite near to that figure, whether that figure has also noticed me or no, it walked towards me.

And spontaneously I filled my dagger holding hand with power.

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"....zu...ma....Kazu....!!"
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I hear a voice from far behind.

I turn around to that voice, to the voice that are directed to me, and it turns out that Aqua and the others are shouting something.

If you look it from a distance, Aqua and Megumin are doing something like a gesture.

I look at them for a while, and grasped the words they want to convey.

[Run away]

That gesture indicated about that meaning.

No, the opponent is only an orc, you know? And I look at my front again.

That thing is already quite near, and it stares directly at me.

Seeing those two are gesturing to that extent, I feel a bit anxious and as a precaution.

Just in case for emergency, I chanted a magic with a small voice

"[Create Earth]"

I generate a handful of earth for blinding purpose in my left hand stealthily, and preparing it for pre-emptive strike.

Glancing to the back, those two people are looking at me, who is facing the orc, and panicking with a clattering noise.

Sending the run-away gesture many times desperately.

Or rather, I should be the one saying run away to you girls.

I think the orc will be aiming for you all, who are females, and.

Well, if I defeat that orc right here, I think there's no need for us to run away but.

I look to the front once more, both of us are already at a distance close enough that we can see each other's face clearly.

That thing's appearance is closer to human's appearance than what I have imagined.

Its ears and nose are the same as pig, but its face shape is quite close to a human's.

I wonder if it was robbed from a traveller, that thing is wearing clothes.

And, the most striking characteristic is that thing has hair. This orc whose hair is dishevelled and skin is green, at a glance, it looks very close to human.

"Hello! Hey handsome onii-san over there. Want to do something good with me?"

Looks like that thing is a female, that thing spoke with a high-pitched voice fluently.

......What the hell, this person is out my expectation.

Even among the orcs there're females.

No wait, I heard it has a very high fertility rate, and it was written that it can mate with another race too.

At a glance, even if that thing is close to human's appearance, it's still a monster when you look at it properly.....

Although this orc has gone out of its way to invite me, but even if I see it as a female, my strike zone isn't that wide.

I'm giving the obvious answer.

"I refuse"

For the first time since I born, I flat out refused a female's temptation. After hearing that, that orc continued without changing its expression. "Is that so? What a pity. Even though I like those that consents more" After saying that, that thing smiled broadly, showing its teeth. Dishevelled hair and yellow teeth, and then overall-round-body type. Even if there aren't any pig's nose and ears, it's still an opponent that I will flat out refuse. Anyway, that thing dares to say 'those that consents'. "I'll try asking because it seems you can talk, we want to pass through here. If you let us, we will share our food with you as gratitude. How's that?" If I present foods as the terms, maybe it will let us pass unexpectedly..... I'm betting on such faint hope. Huh, that reminds me, what meat was that jerky made of? It's not pig's right? I would make them into a cannibal if I fed it pig's meat. While I'm thinking that, the orc is wiping out its saliva from its mouth. As expected, it looks like the effect of food is great.And that thought was broken by the next line of that orc. "I don't care about that. This place is orcs' turf. We won't let any male to get away..... It's a mystery right,

"I don't care about that. This place is orcs' turf. We won't let any male to get away...... It's a mystery right, onii-san. Because at first glance you didn't seem to be strong, but somehow I can feel that you have a strong survival instinct. My intuition often hit the mark. Maybe between you and me, a strong child will be bornWell, won't you do something good with me?"

.....Eeh. What?

This orc doesn't seem to be joking.

I, who was at my wit's end, look behind towards the guys that are far behind.

Those two as usual are still doing the run-away gesture.

Only Darkness, with a not-understanding-the-situation expression, is conflicted about whether to participate or not.

Looking at my action, looks like that orc noticed about those guys from behind.

"Ara, those guys over there..... What, they are all females. I will let them go. You, well..... 3 days. Can you come to our village just for 3 days? Uhuhu, it's a harem, you know? I will let you taste the heaven of this world. Well, all captured males have already gone to heaven anyway!"

Seeing that orc, who is grinning broadly while saying that, I remember my instinctive fear and chant a magic.

"[Wind Breath]!"

I launch the handful of earth I hid earlier with wind magic to that orc.

That blinding surprise attack hit its eyes, the orc groans while crouching.

I rush out quickly to that orc, not with dagger but with my bare hands, and I grab that orc!

Part 5

I absorb the orc's life force with Drain Touch until it was left with barely any, and without giving any finisher, I leave it alone on that place.

Well since last night I pulled an all-nighter, it's just good if I can absorb life force.

That thing totally said 'village'.

If I killed it, it would be troublesome if I became the target of revenge of its comrades.

I have already decided to leave it at that without finishing it, but.....

After I walked a bit since I defeated that orc, I feel a presence from behind.

When I turn my face, it was Aqua and the others chasing after me in panic.

"......What happened? If you walked this close to me, there would be no meaning for me to go ahead. You all, please keep a distance"

After that words.

"What are you saying Kazuma! You have already defeated an orc you know! This plain is the turf of orcs. In short, they will be targeting you until you get out of this plain!"

Megumin is saying that with a strong tone.....

.....No wait.

"Won't it be better if I'm targeted? What do you think I wear lightweight equipment like these for? It is to become a decoy and drawing their attention right? Anyway, I don't want for you all to be caught and have a bad time."

Orcs have a strong libido.

I don't want to imagine them getting caught and have to go through many things.

Aqua said this when I was thinking.

"Oh yeah that's right Kazuma is an *Anpontan* who didn't know about this world's common sense. It can't be helped, I will tell you myself.....ihyai ihyai"

I pulled Aqua's cheeks, who is saying that with bossy attitude, and I urged Megumin about what's the meaning of that.

".....Kazuma, please listen carefully. Currently, there's not a single male orc in this world"

After Megumin's word, somehow Darkness raised a wail.

"Every male orc have already been exterminated from a long time ago. And even if a male orc is born, it will die by being dried up completely before becoming an adult because of mating too much with the females. Thanks to that, the current orcs are the result of mixing blood upon blood with almost every race, keeping every race's excellent genes, so the current orcs can't be called a monster anymore. Nowadays, they will catch any male of other races who entered their turf, bring them to their village, and make them all go through many 'amazing' things. They are the natural enemy for males.And, Kazuma has......"

While Megumin is explaining, and when her explanation is almost over, she said the last line like saying something that are hard to say.

"W-Wait, Orcs are the natural enemy for every female knight! With a strong libido, they will attack every woman they see immediately, and those male orcs are....."

"Already gone.Kazuma had already defeated one female orc. They want a great male who holds superior genes. So they would never let you who have defeated their comrade get away.Look, just like that"

While Darkness is extremely depressed and fallen to her knee, the direction that Megumin pointed is.

The orc, whose life force have been absorbed previously by me, lead a large number of female orcs and all of them were standing in a row.

She said they have every race's superior genes, but that orc, maybe it has already recovered the stolen life force in that short time.

Because there are some cat-eared orcs and dog-eared orcs, I understand they have mated with various race.

While I'm looking at those beast-eared orcs, I remembered the [It's only limited to beautiful girls] word.

The orc, who was unconscious before, said.

"You are really a good man. To be able to make me faint!Certainly, I won't let you go. I have fallen in love with you, what should I do? I will certainly give birth to your child!!"

And at the same time after that orc's making-child declaration, all of my body hairs are standing, and that orc leapt upon me with a rough breath!

"Wai-!? a minu-....! Fuuaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa""



[Why do I have to go through this?

Is this the divine punishment I got from treating a real God badly?

Was it because I tossed away a stone with a weird shape that looks like a garbage which Aqua treats very dearly?

That's not right, God. It's because if she finds something unusual, she will immediately pick that thing.

Was it because I washed her sacred hagoromo along with my underwear?

That's not right, God. It's because if I wash it together with her sacred treasure, its purification ability will cleanse the dirt easily.

From the bottom of my heart I have repented about this.

Aaa...., therefore, please, God...!

"I think it's fine if it's a boy first! Male will be 60 and female will be 40! And then at a white house with a view of the sea, let's make love with me every day!"

"God! I apologize from the bottom of my heart, so please forgive me!"]

Please give me a break! Noooo, I will be killed and raped!

I thrust my dagger without any hesitation, but those orcs with all those superior genes, parried my dagger with ease.....!

"Alright! It will end immediately. So just close your eyes patiently....."

Snapping my dagger with ease, it pushed me down to the ground.

I was a fool.

I underestimated these orcs' power who can survive in this dangerous zone!

"Help me! Megumin, do the usual! Please finish these guys, I beg you!"

"If I use explosion magic in this range, we will get caught in it too! Darkness, don't fall on your knees all the time, somehow please help Kazuma....."

While I was still being pinned down by orcs, I shouted desperately!

"Let's have a talk! Let's have a talk!!"

"If it is ero talk, I will take it gladly! Well, want to talk? Let's do the most embarrassing sexual disposition you have never done! *fuu* *fuu* *fuu*!"

While that orc are breathing roughly, they are pulling all my tunic from left and right!

Drain Touch!

Absorbing physical power with Drain Touch, and make them powerless immediately!

Since I was being straddled, I tried to reach my hand from bottom, but I was blocked swiftly, moreover my wrist was caught.

Not only that, they licked my palm after that.

Please, just forgive me alreadyyyyyyy!!

When I feel all of my pores on my body went goosebump, I am on the verge of screaming for forgiveness.....!

"S-Stoppppppppppp ! Name! I never heard all of your name and age yet! Maybe this will become my first experience! Let's start from introductioooon! I'm Satou Kazuma!"

"I'm Pichipichi, 16 years old, a Swatinaze orc! Now, introduce your lower half too! Just introduce your boasted son already!"

"My son is a shy boy! Because we already know each other name let's begin the ceremonyyyyyyyy! Aqua!! Aqua!! Help meeeeeeee!"

"K-Kazuma-san!"

I raised a screamed just like a girl, and when Aqua shouted.

"[Bottomless Swamp]!"

At same time after I heard the reverberated sound that I have heard before, I raised a scream.

Still lying on the ground, I move only my neck towards that source of sound, right there, there are many orcs' appearance in the middle of that big marsh.

And, on the back is.....

After I saw that Crimson Demon girl, I cry and shout a relieved cry spontaneously.

"17"

I heard a gulping sound from the orc, who is riding on the top of me.

Looks like it was confused, because it saw its comrades are struggling to not get drowned in the swamp that appeared suddenly.

While wary of Yunyun, that orc get up from the top of me.

Finally able to escape from there, I crawl out to beneath of Yunyun while crying.

"Yunyun! Yunyun! Thank you *sob!"

I lean on Yunyun just like that.

"Kya.....! W-What are you doing Kazuma-san!? I-It's alright, It's already alright, so don't cry....., U-umm..... My precious robe.....will be covered.....by snot.....however"

Without taking its eyes off from the troubled Yunyun who is muttering something to me, the orc who was targeting me, took a glance to its struggling comrades in the swamp.

Looks like it wants to help its comrades, but it can't move in front of Yunyun.

Aqua is standing on the side of the crouching me.

"I'm glad you are okay Kazuma!Wh-what happened Kazuma, what!?"

I'm crouching while crying at Aqua's feet who is saying that.

Even when I'm fighting with Demon King's boss, I don't remember feeling this kind of terror.

"Good good, it was so frightening right? Kazuma. It's alright, already alright. Because everyone will protect you"

Aqua is patting my head while saying that, I feel so pathetic of myself who felt a bit relieved in this kind of mistake.

Glancing at the orc, who is still wary of us, then the a-bit-embarrassed Yunyun, spreads her robe, with a wand-on-the-front pose, she declared.

"My name is Yunyun. An arch wizard and the one who has control over high-tier magic. Even within the Crimson Demon Race, I'm among the top-five magic-users, and eventually I will become the chief of Crimson Demon Race...... All you orcs who have made a village in the Crimson Demon's vicinity. Considering our villages' relationship, I will overlook this case. Now, bring all of your comrades and go away!"

The orc who heard Yunyun's words, tore up its shirt, and used it in the place of a rope, it was used to help its drowning comrades.

"Kazuma-san, let's move now!"

Part 6

After getting out from the plains of orcs' turf, we decided to take a breather after entering the forest.

"If Yunyun is here, monsters won't even scare me. What? Won't it be an easy victory already?"

Aqua is saying something that will trigger a flag again.

However, I'm quite aware about the meaning of that.

If there's Yunyun who can control high-tier magic, as expected it's reassuring.

.....And, since a while ago I can't leave Aqua's side.

If I'm at Aqua's side for a long time, somehow I felt relieved.

Aqua was puzzled over my state, but I'm still grateful.

Really, grateful.

For letting me, who is traumatized after the previous experience, without saying any complaints like usual at her side.

I change my torn-up clothes, equip the equipment which I entrusted before over my body, and turn around to my saviour, who gave a helping hand.

"Yunyun, thank you again. I feel really grateful. If you ask how much am I grateful, for the rest of my life, if I was ever asked [Who is the person you respect the most?], I will gratefully answer 'Yunyun' immediately."

"P-Please stop, that, because it looks like a kind of harassment!"

Still grasping Aqua's hagoromo's end tightly, looks like the troubled Yunyun was embarrassed as she said that to me, who is saying grateful words.

"By the way, why are everyone in this kind of place? Megumin too, as expected you were worried about everyone in village, right?"

She said that after she turned around to Megumin.

"E-Ehh, it's my sister! Because I was worried about my sister, Hey, it's because she will do various absurd things."

"O-Oh that's right. Despite can't use any magic, she is a battle junkie"

Yunyun was persuaded by Megumin's words but.

".....W-What? Why all of you smirking?"

She look to us who are smirking except Yunyun, she turned around awkwardly.

While I wrap my hands around a mug filled with coffee.

I slurp it slowly, and my heart, who is very exhausted because I was chased by orcs before, feel like being healed gradually.

While I was wrapped up by my mantle, I look at everyone calmly.

".....You all, every one of you are beautiful"

Along the forest highway, everyone were stiffened by my words.

"What happened to you? Kazuma who usually have a weird way of speech, just became especially weird!"

"C-Calm down! This person is plotting something. It's the Kazuma who likes to raise everyone's hopes then drop it. Because he was delighted earnestly, certainly he will have some trap waiting!"

Aqua and Darkness are saying something impolite.

Megumin, who is still looking at the other way, is mumbling her mouth, want to say that I was plotting something, she glancing repeatedly at me.

And Yunyun, she was flustered with her cheek blushing.

After I safely escaped from the orcs, I felt really relieved, looking at those 4, I once again breathe out.

"You all really are beautiful"

"What happened to you! Hey really, what happened to you! Kazuma weird, really just what happen to you!"

"Calm down, Aqua! First you must cast a recovery magic to Kazuma!"

Both of them are making rattling noise, and Megumin was wary of something.

And, while seeing Yunyun lowered her head out of embarrassment, I was recalling my happiness to be able to escape from the orcs.

Part 7

"-When Megumin was still in her school life, even if you ignore her magical power and magic knowledge, she is still the best with the grades only......And even among the villagers, she is still a genius among genius, so they expect many things about her...... and what do you think will happen if they know that Megumin has degenerated into a defective magician....."

"Oi, it isn't good to brand someone as a defective magician. If it's just magical power, mine is certainly the best among Crimson Demon Race. Don't say such thing like it was a great lie. And please stop mocking my explosion magic, which I devote almost my entire life for."

The break is over, and along the way to the village.

"If there's any place where explosion magic can be used exists, say it! In dungeons, its power is so strong that there's a concern that it can make the dungeon itself collapse, so it can't be used! The firing range is the longest, but there's a fault because its power is too strong, your comrades can get caught in it, so it can't be used! And even the exceptionally high-levelled magicians, after one shot they can't shoot it for the second time, it's very inefficient for magical power consumption! The only advantage is just its power, and if you think about it, it's still too overkill! No one would pick such skill like explosion magic, because it's just a useless magic which took a great amount of skill points!"

Somehow Megumin and Yunyun are quarrelling since before.

She said by all means, regarding about Megumin can only use explosion magic, will be kept as a secret from the people of the village.

Therefore Yunyun is warning her harshly for this fault to not to leak out but.....

And, Megumin turn around right in the front of Yunyun.

".....I have said that before right, Yunyun. You have said something that mustn't be said. Rather than ridiculing my name, you have already said the thing you absolutely mustn't say!"

"W-what? Do you want to fight? If it's a fight, I will accept it. Because I won't lose to Megumin anymore!"

While Yunyun is cautious, Megumin took a distance.

Megumin take a glance at Yunyun and.....

"Kazuma. I will tell you the most embarrassing secret of Yunyun. Actually for us, Crimson Demon Race, after birth, we will be tattooed on somewhere on our body. It's different for each individual, but the location of where Yunyun's tattoo was engraved is unexpectedly....."

"Stop, what you are trying to say to Kazuma-san! I mean, why do you know about my tattoo location! At this range you can't use explosion magic, right!? If it is just Megumin who can't use magic, I can subdue you easily!

Yunyun, who is on the verge of crying, goes on an outburst, but it was parried by Megumin nimbly.

"Aqua, please cast support magic on me! I will give this child a lesson!"

"Co-Coward! As expected, Megumin always cheat! Since a long time ago, you always cheat!"

And, that time. Someone was attracted to their loud quarrelling voice.

"Oi, Right here! As expected from here, I heard some humans' voice!!"

We heard some high-pitched voice in the deep part of forest.

"Oi, your quarrelling sounds was heard by enemies you know! It's about time for you two to shut up!"

While Darkness stoop her body, she scolds both of them sharply.

"Because that short-tempered Yunyun always used loud voice!"

"Megumin is more short-tempered than me! Since back then, she always does reckless things without thinking of any consequences! And ever since then, Chomusuke didn't want to go out from that hat right!"

"So what!!"

"You two just enough already! I said that if you raise a loud voice, we will be found right! Oi Kazuma, you too say something!"

Still continuing their fight, I pushed both of Megumin and Yunyun's head, and Darkness hide herself in the bush.

I can't let out loud voice too, but I shouted to both of them, who are still wrestling in silence.

"Oi, rather than that, please tell me Yunyun's tattoo spot in detail!"

"I found it, it's here! There're people in here!!"

"You! You really!!"

Part 8

"I found two of Crimson Demon race! And the rest are human adventurers! Oi, right here, come here! Those two Crimson Demon Race are children too! This is the chance for glorious achievement!"

It was a monster who wears an armor.

Its ear are sharp, its skin is dark red, and it's not a muscular demon, but a slim demon.

There's a horn protruding from its forehead, and its sparkling eyes can't get away from Megumin and the others.

Looking at that appearance, Aqua and Darkness, who are hiding in the bush, are standing up.....

"Hmm? You, aren't you just an inferior demon? No!! I can't raise my fame if it's just something like this, are you a fake demon who looks like an oni? What? If I make a low-level monster like you into my opponent, my exorcism magic won't even work. Isn't it great? Failure demon! Puukusukusu! I don't have any time to deal with this fake demon. If you can raise your rank into a demon properly, I will accept you as my opponent. Today I will overlook you, so please go that way. Hey, go that way!"

I don't know if what Aqua says, is to provoke, or just to mock it, but hearing Aqua's words, the oni-like monster are clenching its teeth.

After looking at that, Darkness unsheathed her large sword and place it in front of her.

Looking at his armor, I wonder if this guy is fighting along Demon King's army against Crimson Demon village.

It's quite near to Crimson Demon's village, so it's not strange for Demon King's army soldiers to be loitering around here.

That guy is holding a short spear in his hands, and his already dark red face is getting darker and darker, and to show his anger he is glaring to our direction.

And, behind that guy, there are many figures similar to that guy scattering about.

They are holding various weapons, but they are still demon soldiers armed with an armament.

Wait, isn't this bad?

Anyway, their numbers are quite many....., too many!

"I heard you would overlook me. Oi, the priest over there, so what? I will make those 2 Crimson Demon race children drink boiling water. There's no way I would overlook you after what you said before! Oi, tear them apart!"

From behind that oni, over 20 monsters with similar appearances.

And, Yunyun steps forward.....

"[Light of Saber]!"

At the same time with her shout, the sky was cut down diagonally with a chop.

After that, as if chasing that line, a streak of light ran through them.

At the moment that light passes through them, some of them has their body cut off, and those onis fell to the ground.

"Su-Surround, Surround them! Surround the perimeter! Each time they attack, disable them somehow, first let's kill that Crimson Demon girl!"

Seeing his fallen comrades' appearance, that enraged oni shouted.

And to restrain the onis who are trying to enclose Yunyun, Darkness stand between Yunyun and the onis.

And while Aqua is casting a support magic to Darkness who is in the front.

"Yunyun, previously you said my magic is a useless magic right! I will show you the destruction power of this magic that you labelled as useless again after a long time!"

"Eh!? W-Wait a minute, it can't be!?"

"[Explosion]!"

Ignoring the panicking Yunyun, Megumin enfold many Demon King's minions that can be seen from far distance by exploding them with explosion magic.

Trees in the surrounding are being uprooted and blown away, and the onis, who are seeing that power, are taking a guard.

After the dust is gone, everything are gone except for an enormous crater.

"Did you see that? My specialty, explosion magic! Now, can you still call that a useless magic!? How is it Kazuma? What is the score for that explosion magic!?"

"I will give it minus 90! Exhausting your magical power right off the bat, what should we do you idiot! There're still some enemies that survived that, there's no way we can run while giving you a piggyback!"

"Ka-Kazuma-san! While you are saying that, there may be more soldiers coming after hearing that sound!!"

While I'm forcibly lifting Megumin that have exhausted her magical power.

"Oi, what should we do! You, can you fight those guys!?"

I turn around towards Aqua, who is for some reason brimming with confidence, and while using Drain Touch to supply Megumin some magical power, I called her out.

After hearing my words, Aqua is twisting her neck.

.....Looks like she wanted to crack her neck.

Just like that, she scratches the ground with her feet, kicks the ground, take a stance and prepared her fist.

"Fufu, please remember it carefully. By any chance, are you thinking about me as a woman who can only use recovery magic? I'm Aqua-sama, who has all of her status maxed! If I make this small fry demon into my opponent, it's enough for me to use 1 hand only. Well just look, once in a while I will show my goddess-like part!"

.....This isn't good.

Because I can already see the next development for this, I supply Megumin with a decent amount of magical power and lend her my shoulder to help her stand up.

If I look at those onis of Demon King's army, they are temporarily stunned by the explosion magic, for now we'll just pull ourselves together again, and then gather up close once more.

Even if there's Yunyun in our side, as expected we will still be overwhelmed by sheer number.

Still taking along the out-of-magic Megumin until we can run away, but we can't make opponents out of demon king's army if we don't know their numbers.

"Aqua, let's run away! Don't make that strange pose and try to intimidate them, just run away immediately!"

Demon King's minions are moving rapidly towards Aqua who is doing various intimidating pose.

I turned my back to Aqua, and when I almost tell everyone to retreat, Aqua muttered a bit.

" Ah"

I turn around because of her voice, and something can be seen from afar was another group of Demon King's army minions running to here with a desperate look.

All of them, without their weapons ready, instead they ran this way while throwing their weapons away.

!?
When I'm thinking about what happened.
All of sudden, a group of four person wearing a black robe appeared from out of nowhere.
Two of them are wearing a black jumpsuit that looks like a rider suit, and they are wearing a fingerless glove.
That group, some of them are holding a short wand, and some of them aren't holding anything, their choice of weapons are very diverse.
Maybe there're still some people that are hiding, but only that four showed up. The equipment and weapons they equip are various, but there's one thing.
There's only one thing that can be said they have in common.
That is their crimson-colored eyes.
The completely in black group that appeared have the same eyes as Megumin and Yunyun, a deep crimson eyes.
Yeah, they are Crimson Demon race.
Maybe it looks like they appeared from out of nowhere, but actually they are just hiding their appearance with magic.
And, the reason for the demon king's minion that ran here desperately to come is, most likely they noticed us, but rather than attacking us, I noticed they were raided by Crimson Demon race instead and ran here in panic.
The evidence is, the demon king's minions, who were attacking us, have stopped, and each sides are puzzled to see four of us and that Crimson Demon race.
Eventually they are probably thinking it's easy to deal with four of us.
When they are running towards here!
And at that instant.
"It's good for all of you to disappear without leaving any single flesh by my flame of darkness that was born from the deep abyss of my heart!"
"I can't. I can't hold it anymore! Just become the sacrifice to calm this destruction impulse of mineeee~!"
"Now, just sleep eternally Be embraced by my ice arm"
"Just die already. I won't forget you all. Yeah, I'll engrave it forever Deep inside of my soul's memory"
Those are magic chants, it's not.
It should be their various signature phrases.
Maybe their physical ability have been strengthened by magic, they can catch up with the Demon King's minions in no time.

In the end, all of them chants the completely same magic chant.
Looking at that, Demon King's minions are raising their hand
"Wai-? Sto?"
Looks like one of the Demon King's minion is trying to say something, but the Crimson Demon Race's magic's chant is already done.
"[Light of Saber]!"
"[Light of Saber]!"
"Saber]!"
"Saber]!"
After shouting in succession, their hands shined like a sword of light.
And they swing those shining sword in succession.
And finally
On that place, there's only remains of Demon King's minion that have been turn into a shreds.
What is this? It's terrifying, Crimson Demon race are super terrifying!
It made more sense if the Demon King's minions run away rather than them!
Earlier you all said your catchphrases, something like darkness flame or ice arm, from where you got that, it was so terrifying to the extent I even hesitate to retort that.
And, one of those Crimson Demon race turned his sight towards us.
It was the man who said, "It's good for all of you to disappear without leaving any single flesh" previously.
"After hearing a roaring explosion sound from afar, when I come to this place along with guerrilla force personnel to attack the Demon King's army Isn't that Yunyun and Megumin? Why are all of you in a place like this?"
He speaks with us with a friendly, normal sounding tone.
After Megumin heard that, she stood up while staggering.
"Aren't you Bukkorori, the brat from the shoemaker? It's been a long time. After hearing the village was in pinch, I rushed to here."
After Megumin's word, Bukkorori said "Pinch?" and tilt his head.
Hmm?
And, the other Crimson Demon Race are also looking at us curiously.
And that man who was called Bukkorori,
"By the way Megumin, are the people over there your adventurer comrades?"

Asked about that.

After that question, while being bashful and a bit delightful, Megumin nods.

After seeing that, Bukkorori showed a serious face, and spread his robe.

"My name is Bukkorori! The son of number one shoemaker of Crimson Demon Race. An arch wizard and the one who has control over high-tier magic......"

All of sudden Bukkorori start to introduce himself with that kind of introduction.

Usually I will be dumbfounded by that, but I have already developed some resistance to that because of Megumin and Yunyun.

"Thanks for your polite greeting. My name is Satou Kazuma. The one who have already learned many skills in Axel town and have fought with Demon King's boss. Best regards"

And somehow, I match my introduction with him lightly.

"""Oooooh!"""

Suddenly, all of Crimson Demon Race raised a surprised voice.

"Amazing, it's actually amazing! Normally after hearing our introduction, most people will show a subtle reaction...... But it can't be, for an outsider to give a reply like that!"

After Bukkorori's words, the others Crimson Demon race are nodding excessively.

".....Kazuma, you are quite friendly to Bukkorori and the others! Despite when I was introducing myself to you, you didn't give that kind of response!"

Megumin blurted something unusual.

What is it? Maybe it is the right reaction for this.

Usually, if someone is jealous because of me, my heart will throb a bit.

But my opponent is an older man, so I really don't know the reason for her to be that jealous.

......However, considering it was the common sense of Crimson Demon Race, maybe she felt a bit irritated about this.

What the hell is this?

It wasn't something that would make you envious normally, so I'm not happy at all.

I really don't feel any appeal from this kind of love comedy development at all.

What is this, and when I was still conflicted.

"My name is Aqua! As a worshipped existence, and eventually become a person who brings destruction to Demon King! And my true identity is the water goddess!"

Suddenly, although no one is asking her to, Aqua began that kind of introduction.

"""Oh, is that so? It's so amazing!"""

"Wait!! Why? Hey, Why only me who always get that kind of reaction!?"

I avert my sight from the screaming Aqua, and all Crimson Demons are staring at Darkness with full-of-expectation eyes.

After receiving that, Darkness while flinching.....

"M-My name is Dustiness Ford Lala....ti....na..... At Axel town.....uuuuu....!"

Answering everyone's expectation, she looks very embarrassed. Darkness's voice is becoming smaller gradually while gathering everyone's attention.

Don't force yourself.

Because of her embarrassment, her eyes are becoming teary, Bukkorori is looking at Darkness who is blushing and murmuring something, while starting to magic chant loudly.

"Megumin, it's best if you can get good comrades. There's still some distance from here to the village. For now, I will guide you all. I will send you with Teleport!"

After Bukkorori said that, he chanted the teleport magic.

After the sudden teleport, my vision starts to distort, and with some dizziness my surrounding scenery change completely.

Over there, there was a small village that suits the word calm.

We were dumbfounded after looking at the village, and Bukkorori showed a smiling face.

"Welcome to Crimson Demon's village, outsiders. Megumin and Yunyun too, welcome back!!"



Chapter 3 – Making a Temporary Stop in this Village that Makes my Balls hurt!

Part 1

"Well then, we will resume our security patrol."

Buzucoily said and pulled away from us.

Then the three of them gathered together and started chanting something...!

"Goodbye then!"

After chanting their spell softly, Buzucoily's group vanished just like that.

Amazing, they felt like real wizards.

Did they return to the battlefield with teleport...!

"I think these guys are cool. Like a group of combat experts."

I stared at the spot where they disappeared and said respectfully.

"Is that so, the four of them must be smiling gleefully nearby after hearing that."

Megumin who was being supported by me said...

"... Nearby? Didn't they leave via teleport?"

It was Yunyun who spoke this time.

"They turned invisible by using light refraction. Teleport consumes a lot of mana, they will run out if they use it so frequently after a battle. I think they just want to show off a cool exit... it hurts!"

Suddenly, a pebble flew from the spot they were standing in and hit the head of Yunyun who hadn't finished speaking.

As if to warn her not to say too much.

... So they were there.

"On the side note, light refraction magic deploys a barrier a few meters around a specific person or object, obscuring the view of the inside of the barrier from the outside... And so, you can see them if you go nearer."

Agua took a step forward silently when she heard Megumin's casual explanation.

"…!"

Something backed away with a gasp.

" "
Suddenly, Aqua charged forward.
"!?" x4
The sound of multiple people running away could be heard.
Don't, don't do that
Leaving Aqua who was chasing something invisible with a bright smile on her face, we entered the village.
Anyway, in order to understand the situation, we need to go to Yunyun's home.
Aqua probably got tired of chasing them around and rejoined us.
"Say, these guys are really something. I can't catch them even with my speed."
To think Aqua whose stats were all high except for brains and luck couldn't catch them.
The way they made their exit was a bit off, but I remembered they called themselves the 'anti-demon king army guerrilla unit'.
They must be the elite of the Home of the Crimson Magic.
But Megumin, dealt to my impression of them
"They ran away by doping with body strengthening magic. I don't think that group of NEETs who laze around at home would have such stamina."
Which was shattered by words I couldn't ignore.
" NEET group? No, aren't they the anti-demon king army guerrilla unit? They left because they have to perform patrols."
In response to my query,
"They are idle people who can't leave their parents or find jobs. If they go to other cities as adventurers, they would be in high demand, but they refuse to leave the village. Idling around all day with nothing to do, in order to not let others think they were just lazing around, they claim to be the anti-demon king army guerrilla unit and wander around the vicinity of the village."

Aqua stared in that direction without moving when she heard that...

Megumin told me something I really didn't want to know.

As if she could tell what I was thinking, Yunyun said:

What did that mean?

Even the specs of NEET were that high?

"All members of the Crimson Magic race could learn advance magic in adulthood. Everyone in the village are Archwizards. After learning advance magic, we will master all kinds of spells with the skill points we earned. This is common sense..."

She said as she glanced at Megumin.

Megumin ignored her gaze as if this had nothing to do with her, looking around the home village she was so familiar with.

The Home of the Crimson Magic was a village sized settlement.

The faces of the Crimson Magic residents weren't tense at all. Maybe it was because of the gentle sun in spring, there were people yawning casually.

To be frank, it didn't seem like they were fighting with the demon king...

"... Eh, this griffon statue looks so realistic. Is that a work of a famous sculptor?"

Darkness said suddenly as he pay on the statue right in front of the village entrance.

I see, the griffon was so real that I thought that it might move any moment now...

"That is a Griffon who wandered into the village and got petrified. It looks cool, so it was preserved as a scenic attraction. And now, it is mainly used as a landmark to meet up with people."

What, what a reckless attraction.

After hearing what Megumin said, Aqua was curious about the statue and started chanting something while placing her hand on it.

"... What magic are you planning to use?"

"A spell to cure abnormal status. I have never seen a life griffon before."

After we restrained Aqua, we went to Yunyun's home to understand the situation.

Part 2

— A large mansion in the middle of the village.

The middle aged man sitting opposite them on the couch burrowed his brows.

After entering the reception room of the village chief, we learned from the middle aged man before us, Yunyun's father, the impactful truth.

"No, that is just a letter to my daughter about how I have been doing. I caught a little carried away when writing it. My Crimson Magic bloodlines make it impossible for me to write normal letters..."

"I don't really understand that."

I immediately retorted the village chief, while Yunyun besides me was still stunned.

"... Eh? Erm, Da, Dad? Well, I am happy you that you are okay dad, but can you explain it in detail? First of all, at the beginning of the letter you wrote 'By the time you receive this letter, I probably have already passed on from this world'..."

- "Isn't that the standard greeting for the Crimson Magic race? Didn't you learn that in school?... Ah, now that you mentioned it, Megumin and you graduated early because your results were excellent."
- "... And the part about unable to break through the military base built by the demon king army..."
- "Ahh, that part? Those guys built a very extravagant base. Should we destroy it or keep it as a new scenic attraction? We couldn't decide."



"Hey Yunyun. Can I punch your father?" "Go ahead." "Yunyun!?" Darkness raised a question to the shocked village chief. "... Hmm? Wait, so the demon king army did build a military base here. So the part about the 'boss of the demon king army coming' is..." "That's correct, it is as stated on the letter, they sent a boss with high magic resistance here. Right right, it is almost time. If you are free, want to come take a look?" The village chief invited us casually and at this moment— "Demon king army alert, demon king army alert. Everyone who is free please gather before the Griffon statue at the village entrance. We have visuals of the enemy, they number about a thousand." The broadcast echoed throughout the village with the ringing of the bells. "One thousand!?" x2 Darkness and I exclaimed loudly, while the three Crimson Magic clansmen was calm as usual. Didn't they hear the number 'a thousand'? From the scale of this settlement, there were at most three hundred villagers. What was with their easy attitude in the force of the demon king army that outnumbers them three to one? "A thousand soldiers of the demon king army. Seems like it is time to show the real power of a goddess." It was rare to see Aqua drinking tea so obediently when she suddenly said that. I think the Home of the Crimson Magic was a bad influence on her. Please don't do anything stupid. Turning towards Darkness who was preparing for battle in a panic, Megumin said in a calm voice. "Don't fret, this is the village of powerful mages, the Home of the Crimson. Let's go and take a look, shall we?" Part 3 ... Amazing. "Wahh!! Uwahhhhh!!" "Sylvia-sama! Sylvia-sama!! Please retreat! Please retreat— Even if it is just you!" "Damn, damn it! We can take our revenge if we are a little bit closer to these vermin...!" "That's why I object the attacking the Home of the Crimson Magic, that's why I didn't want to come...!"

Before they even reach the entrance to the village, the minions of the demon king fell one after another.

Compared to the thousand men strong enemy, we only had fifty odd people on our side.

Those fifty odd Crimson Magic clansmen...

"Lightning Strike!"

"Energy Ignition!"

"Freeze Gust!"

"Cursed Lightning!"

They pelted the vanguard of the demon king army with a rain of merciless high level spells.

"Amazing... It feels terrifying for them to be so powerful..."

This was no longer a battle, not a one-sided massacre.

Some of the demon king army soldiers were struck by lightning that descended from the sky while others burst into flames spontaneously.

There were ones that turned into ice sculpture after being engulfed by white fog and those with a hole blasted in their chest by dark lightning.

... At this moment, the army parted in the middle and a beautiful lady in a dress walked forth.

"Everyone! I will block them from the front so follow me! The gap between casting two high levels spell is large. Let's use this chance...!"

Was that beautiful person the boss of the demon king army?

Wearing a low cut dress, she looked like a tall beauty at a glance.

The blue earring on her right ear was sparkling, which contrasted with her luscious dress and gave her a pure image.

A man and a woman walked forward as if to oppose her.

I saw that man before.

He was Buzucoily who gave us a lift here.

Buzucoily's eyes shone and he put both hands before him.

After knowing Megumin for so I long, I know very well.

When the eyes of the Crimson Magic shone, it meant they were very hyped up...

"Tornado!!"

Or they were channelling large amount of mana to activate powerful spells.

Buzucoily unleashed a colossal tornado into the midst of the demon king army.

A huge number of troops were thrown helplessly into the air.

They would probably die after they crash onto the ground.

At the same time, the eyes of the pretty lady besides Buzucoily also shone, and she reached forth with her left hand.

She had a weapon in her right hand, which was rare among the Crimson Magic.

Looking closely, it was a wooden sword with a dragon engraving on it.

Since the one holding it was a Crimson Magic race, so that was probably a magical weapon.

With her left hand extended, the lady swung the wooden sword in her right hand.

"Inferno!"

In the midst of the tornado, a storm of powerful flames appeared!

Part 4

After spectating the battle of the Crimson Magic, we decided to go to Megumin's home.

Yunyun said she wanted to deliver punishment to her friend Arue who sent that letter and went off.

I thought back about the magic I saw earlier and said:

"Ara~ what a show. So that's the real Crimson Magic race huh."

"When you say real, you are implying there are fakes. Hey, tell me where are the fake Crimson Magic race."

As I supported Megumin who looked as if she was about to bite, we came to a small wooden cottage.

How should I put this. It was impolite to say this, but it seemed much more run down than normal families.

Maybe Megumin was tired from exhausting her mana, she knocked the door with a face of fatigue.

A short while later, the soft sound of someone running came from inside.

The door into the house was opened gently.

A little girl who looked very much like Megumin, about grade school age came out.

"Oh, Megumin's sister huh? Such a cute kid."

Darkness smiled brilliantly.

"It feels like a mini Megumin. Nah, little Megumin, want some sweets?"

Aqua took out sweets from somewhere...

"Komekko, I am home. Have you been a good girl?"

Megumin said to the child gently while leaning on my shoulder.

Komekko...

That Buzucoily just now too, I am probably numbed to this and didn't retort the names of the Crimson Magic clansmen.

Komekko turned stiff as she stared at Megumin.

This must be a touching reunion.

Komekko widened her eyes and took a deep breath.

"Dad! Sis brought a man back with her!"

"Wait Imouto-chan, please let big brother explain!"

Part 5

"Watch closely. The mug I placed upside down on the low table will move around like so!"

"Amazing! Amazing!! How did you do that? Nah, how? Blue hair onee-san, how did you do that!?"

"It's magnet! It must be moved by the magnets under the table! Right? Am I right, Aqua!?"

The living room in Megumin's house.

Aqua was performing a show with a glass.

Darkness and Komekko were watching attentively.

Darkness' guess of magnet was right.

The mug moved by Aqua was metallic.

By using magnets under the table, she could move it...

I speculate the gimmicks behind it as I listened to their conversation. After peeking their way, I was momentarily speechless.

Aqua was sitting properly in the middle of the living room with both hands on her knees.

Just by staring at the mug on the table, she could move it around freely.

....!?

What was happening? I started doubting my own eyes. While I was focusing that way...

"Ah— ...! Cough cough!"

The person before me coughed dryly.

Oh no!

I was sitting on the rug in the living room by an oppressive atmosphere, and before me was Megumin's father who was staring at me with a stern expression.

At a glance, he looked like a normal middle aged man with black hair, but his sharp eyes had been emitting an oppressive pressure since just now.

He was Megumin's father whose name I have heard before, Hyoizaburo.

"... Thanks for taking care of my daughter. I express my sincere gratitude for that."

Hyoizaburo said as he bowed lightly to me.

Besides him was a beautiful lady who resembles Megumin, with a head of black hair and slight wrinkles on the corner of her lips and eyes.

"My daughter has troubled you much... I learned much about Kazuma-san from the letters she sent back... So we know you quite well..."

Megumin's mother, Yuiyui-san bowed deeply towards me.

What should I do?

I sent begrudging glances at the one who should be picking up the mess.

Megumin exhausted her mana because of that explosion spell, and was sleeping in the set of beddings in the corner.

After looking emotionally at Megumin for a moment, Hyoizaburo stiffened his face and asked:

"... Well then. What is your relationship with my daughter?"

He asked me the same question for the third time.

"... I already said many times, we are just normal friends and comrades."

After Hyoizaburo heard that, he looked as if he couldn't bear it anymore, moving quickly to the table where Aqua was performing and reached out.



"What did you sayyyyyyy!!"

"Hubbyyyyyyyyyy Stop! Don't flip and damage the table! Our finance is really tight this monthhhhh!"

There were many weird people among the Crimson Magic.

— Hyoizaburo sipped the tea his wife made for him and sigh.

"Pardon me, I was too agitated. All because you keep playing dumb and say you were just friends."

I swallowed my words 'We are really just friends' back, and took something out to change the topic.

Those were snacks I bought in Alcanretia after the hot spring trip there a few days earlier.

I didn't have a chance to take them out yet as we set off from axel immediately after coming back.

"This is... just a simple gift for your hospitality..."

At that instant, Hyoizaburo and his wife grabbed the package I was handing over at the same time.

"... My dear, this is a gift from Kazuma-san to me. Let go."

"Ara ara, really now hubby. You were just addressing him rudely as 'you', and you suddenly change it to 'Kazuma-san' after seeing the gift, just how thick skinned are you? This will be dinner tonight, I won't let you eat it as snacks for your wine, alright?"

The madam made a joke I couldn't laugh at.

No, those were just buns. You can't eat that for dinner or as snacks to complement wine.

I endured my urge to retort, and Komekko cheered.

"Food!? Nah, that is solid food right!? Not porridge so thin you can't even see the rice, but something that will make you full!?"

... I took out all the rations in my backpack and spread them before me in silence.

"Really... It isn't much..."

"You came at the right time Kazuma-san! My dear, serve him our best tea!"

"There is only one type of tea in the house, I will brew some over, a moment please!"

— As I drinking the tea prepared by madam, Komekko held the buns I brought in each hand, stuffing it into her mouth like a squirrel.

Komekko chewed quietly as she stared intently at my profile.

Komekko looked at the two buns in her hands, gulped, and...

"... For you. It tastes good."

She offered me the bun she wasn't eating.

Komekko stared hungrily at the bun she was offering.

"Komekko, don't get any closer! Come to Onee-san, quick!"

"That's right Komekko! That man always plays obscene pranks on your sister. Come here before he lay his claws on you!"

Komekko looked at me with her head tilted despite what Aqua and Darkness were saying.

I will punish them later... Komekko was really an angel.

"Thank you, Komekko can have it. Onii-san is already full."

When she heard that, Komekko said 'I see!' and sat beside me, munching on her buns again.

I smiled when I saw such a cute scene.

Hyoizaburo said to me with a serious face.

"... No matter how much food you bring, I won't give you Komekko!"

"That's a misunderstanding! Please don't listen to those two!"

Aqua sneaked to my side as I desperately tried to explain and grabbed Komekko away as if she was trying to protect her from me.

... I will remember this, you two.

Komekko paid no heed to being grabbed and taken away by Aqua, munching on her buns and letting Aqua do as she please.

Finally, the madam smiled warmly at me as I was drinking tea and said:

"By the way, I heard Kazuma-san has a huge amount of debt isn't it? I won't object since I feel that Kazuma-san is a good person... But if you want to be with our daughter, shouldn't you do so after clearing your debts...?"

I spit the tea in my mouth out.

"What do you mean by 'be with your daughter'!? Didn't I explain that we are just friends!?"

In response to my strong response, the madam looked at me confusedly:

"From the letters sent by my daughter, I think the two of you are really close right...?"

"No, wait, may I ask what was written on the letters?"

I calmed down and looked at Hyoizaburo and madam in the face.

The madam finally spoke:

"For example..."



Admiring the scene of my daughter being covered in goo.

Saying things like 'did your bust grow bigger' while piggybacking my daughter.

Bathing together with my daughter.

When my daughter was napping defenceless on the couch, you will squat down with your hands on your knees to peek under her skirt.

When feeding Chomusuke, you will put panties before him and say 'listen up, it looks like this, if you can steal this for me, I will treat you to better food', teaching him to do bad things.

"... And so, your relationship is so close that sexual harassment becomes commonplace..."

When I heard that, I got on my knees and prostrated myself before Megumin's parents.

Hyoizaburo continued after his wife—

"Even so, my daughter still thinks you are an important comrade she couldn't just ignore. She even wrote that even though you are a pervert full of debt with poor combat skills, vulgar language and lacks common sense, she couldn't leave you alone because you will die easily if she doesn't keep an eye on you. My daughter already said this much, I think there must be something..."

He said with a heavy heart.

There were many parts that were strange, but I was happy that she thinks of me as an important comrade.

That's right, our bonds were strong enough to accommodate each other's flaws, just hearing her badmouthing me would not shake the trust I have in her...

"According to my daughter, she is the main damage dealer in Kazuma-san's team, the team won't be able to function without her. And she was the one who defeated the demon king army boss Vanir, forced another boss out from his castle by bombarding his castle every day, and made huge contributions in subjugating that boss..."

... Eh, that's not wrong.

We defeated the boss Hans recently too, but we were not so dependent on Megumin that the team won't be able to function without her...

"Hmm. And she was the one to deal the final blow to the mobile fortress destroyer! Ara, my daughter really made a name for herself!"

Continuing from where his wife left off, Hyoizaburo added happily...

It's not wrong, but...

I glanced at Megumin who was sleeping soundly.

Megumin who was breathing deeply turned her back on me...

Was she actually awake?

The madam looked at me with suspicious eyes while I watch Megumin—

"The letter also state many things about you and your comrades... Well, do you still have a lot of debts? This concern the team my daughter is in. We want to help too, but my family is not that well off..."

She said apologetically...

"Ahh, no, the debt has already been cleared. I should be able to get a large amount of money after this trip, so there is no problems, don't worry."

After hearing what I blurted out by accident, Hyoizaburo reacted strongly.

"... Oh. Pray tell how much you will be getting..."

Feeling a bit nervous in Megumin's home, I didn't question too much and answered truthfully.

"About three hundred million Eris."

"Three hundred million!?" x2

... Hmm? Did I say something unnecessary?

Hyoizaburo came close to me.

And smiled gently as he clapped his hands.

"Ahh, Kazuma-san, that's right, how about staying here for the night? You are my daughter's comrade, we have to treat you well! How about staying here from now on!? As an adventurer, you are probably wandering around without a fixed home right!?"

"Yes! Komekko, sleep with me and dad in the living room tonight! Those two can just sleep in our room! But our house is small, so there is only our room and Megumin's old room... It's a bit cramp for so many people to stay here... Nah, Hubby, how about re..."

I was terrified by the incredible words of the two of them—

"No, no need... I, well, have a mansion in Axel..."

— And told them this fact timidly.

"Mansion!!" x2

Oh no.

I shift my gaze from the glowing eyes of these two and seek help from Darkness and Aqua...

"Next! Something amazing will come out from this box!"

"Something will definitely jump out when she opens it! That's definitely it, Komekko!"

"Amazing! Amazing!"

The three of them seemed rather busy.

Part 6

It was already evening, but Megumin was still sleeping soundly.

That was to be expected.

She might be the most down to earth person in the team, but she was just fourteen.

Right after finishing the trip to Alcanretia, she came on this journey right away and exhausted all her mana with her explosion spell.

And her family who she had not met for so long...

"Mum! Meat! Meat!"

"My dear, I hear that vegetables are good for your skin, so leave the meat to me. I wish for you to be beautiful forever!"

"Ara ara, hubby, your hair is thinning, eating the seaweed salad should be enough for you!"

... were not concerned at all about their soundly sleeping daughter, the family fought to eat the ingredients I bought.

Dinner was hotpot.

Aqua sipped on the wine I bought together with the ingredients, while Darkness seemed a bit nervous, maybe it was her first time eating together with everyone at a short table.

She glanced at me from time to time, checking if her manners were proper as she ate gracefully.

Komekko finally ate finished and said with sparkling eyes.

"Nah, Dad, Mum! The blue hair Onee-san is amazing! She made a big Neroid come out from a small box!"

That piqued my curiousity.

Darkness noticed that I was listening to this conversation.

"It was amazing, Kazuma, something physically impossible happened. A Neroid physically larger than the box came out, and flew away through the window. I had been thinking about that all this while..."

When I heard that, I told Aqua who was drinking wine happily:

"... Say, this has been bothering me for a while now, can I watch your tricks carefully?"

"Don't wanna. Performance are not done by request, I will do so only when I feel like hyped up. If you want to see it no matter what, then prepare a party setting that would make me want to perform."

She said while nimbly squeezing peas out of a pea pods with one hand and flicked it onto my lips.

"How dumb... I already aimed for your mouth, so catch it properly... Stop, stop! You don't even drink much, don't take all of my peapods!"

Dinner was harmonious.

It gave me nostalgia of my time in Japan eating together with my family, making me forget my nervousness of camping out these few days and enjoy a proper meal happily.

— It happened when I was returning to the living room after my bath.

"What nonsense is this!? Aren't you concerned about your daughter!? What you are doing is sending a delicious lamb into the cage of a beast that had been starved for a week!"

Agua and the others bathed before me, so I was last. The sound of Darkness' accusations.

What were they arguing about? I peeked inside and saw Hyoizaburo lying in the middle of the living room snoring.

He was still awake when I took my bath, wasn't that a bit too fast?

I don't see Aqua anywhere, she probably went into the room she was assigned to sleep.

"Even if you say that... They have been living under the same roof all this while, and nothing went wrong correct? Then there are no problems. My daughter is of marriageable age, and Kazuma-san is a sensible adult... Even if something did happen, wouldn't that mean both parties are willing? If that is the case, I can't say anything even if I am a parent."

Seemed like Darkness was protesting letting me sleep with Megumin.

I am fine with sleeping anywhere though.

A devious smile appeared on madam's face.

"... By the way, Darkness-san, why are you so against this? Would it be inconvenient for you if Kazuma-san sleeps together with my daughter?"

She asked something I am a little concerned about...

"Huh!? That's like saying I am jealous, it feels unpleasant, please don't say that..."

... Hmm.

"Is, is that so, my apologies. I seemed to be mistaken. But it would be too cramped to move my daughter to the other room. If no one sleeps in the same room as Kazuma-san..."

Darkness said to Madam:

"Just let Hyoizaburo-san sleep with Kazuma, problem solved."

"Eh?"

After hearing Darkness' logical statement, Madam was surprised.

No, that was a good way, but couldn't you read the mood...

"That is not lewd at all— Eh, no, from what I understand about my daughter's letter, letting Komekko sleep with him is out of the question, and I feel uneasy if the head of the family do that too..."

Hey Madam, what did you say? What kind of person did you think I am?

I will ask them to let me see all the letters Megumin sent them tomorrow.

Darkness seemed to be getting excited as she exclaimed loudly—

"In that case...! I will sleep besides him! If it is me, even if that beast tried anything, I will definitely resist to the end...! No, maybe resistance would be futile, and I would become a playtime for his abnormal lust

and do something incredible. That, that's right, he must have accumulated a lot of lust during this journey. He even stayed up all night! I heard that boys would become agitated after staying up all night...! He might forcefully press me down despite my resistance, cover my mouth and say to me threatening 'you will wake Komekko, keep quiet unless you want everyone to hear this' and..."

"Sleep."

Madam chanted her spell and Darkness who kept rumbling on collapsed.

How fierce.

... I unconsciously looked at Hyoizaburo who showed no signs of waking up in this din.

Could it be, Hyoizaburo was also...

Suddenly, Madam noticed me peeking into the living room, and picked up Komekko who was dozing off with one hand.

"Ara, Kazuma-san. Just finished your bath? Darkness-san fell asleep, could you help me carry her to the room?"

She said with a smile.

Part 7

"You have been a great help. Darkness-san must be tired from her tough journey, and won't wake before morning. My husband, Komekko and me are all deep sleepers, so we won't wake even if it is a bit noisy... Kazuma-san, you must be tired, do retire early for today."

Madam said as she forcefully pushed me into the room Megumin was sleeping in.

"Eh, well... I won't hold back and sleep... Just to let you know, I have known Megumin for a long time so there won't be any accidents alright? Please don't believe what that pervert crusader who had been holding it in said."

"I know, I know, so no problems! If something does happen, you will take responsibility properly...!"

You don't get it at all, Madam.

I was pushed into Megumin's room.

"Both of you, enjoy yourself...!"

I heard Madam uttered behind me.

I shrug and looked into the dim room.

Sleeping in the middle of the room was Megumin, who was brought in while I wasn't paying attention.

Just from her sleeping posture, Megumin looked really pretty.

The dash of gentle moonlight shining through the windows illuminated Megumin's sleeping face.

Seeing her luscious black hair, I felt a strange attraction between the two of us...

... I lost myself looking at her.

Being attracted by Megumin who I have gotten used to might be the result of the psychological trauma those orcs left on me.

After I return to town, I will ask the succubus onee-sans to heal my soul.

It was tiring for me too, I should sleep early.

... At this moment.

"Lock!"

I heard this sound coming from outside.

That's probably Madam locking the door with magic.

It was my fault for spilling the money I would be getting, but Madam was really pulling all the stops.

Even when her daughter already wrote so much about this man, was it really fine for a parent to act like this?

She seemed really confident in her female instinct and judgment of people.

... Forget it, I will just sleep.

Stopping my train of thought, I surveyed the cramped room restlessly and realized.

Aside from the bedding Megumin was in, there was no other place for me to sleep.

Part 8

I stood there stiffly for a moment under the dim illumination of the moonlight.

Before me was Megumin deep in slumber.

There was just the two of us in the room right now.

Aqua who was drinking had fallen asleep, Hyoizaburo who might interfere had been knocked out by Madam.

... Also, no one could exit the room since the door was locked by magic from the outside.

It was a feast laid right before me.

Only one set of bedding in the room.

It may be spring, but the weather was still cold.

Even if we were indoors, we might catch a cold if we don't use a blanket.

What if the flu worsens and led to pneumonia?

I heard that healing spells couldn't cure disease in this world.

Dying from illness was viewed as death from natural causes, and resurrection wouldn't work.

Which meant that dying from illness was worse than falling in battle, a cold was a terrifying thing.

And so, there was no problem with me snuggling into the bedding with Megumin
" "
I pondered about it for a moment.
If I do anything to Megumin who was asleep, I wouldn't be able to deny Darkness and Aqua if they accused me of being a demon and an evil natured being.
I am a gentleman, not someone like that.
But the situation right now was that I had the blessings of both her parents.
If that was so, I would win the court case even if Megumin was to sue.
No no no, could I really win?
Anyway, how does the judicial system in this world works?
Damn it, I should learn the laws of this world seriously!
If I knew
No, that's not it.
Thinking about what I should do if I was sued, the logic was wrong.
No way, this situation was making me panic too.
Calm down, I need to calm down, Satou Kazuma, calm down and think!
No matter how I see it, the nights in spring were very cold.
I couldn't think in such a cold condition, allow me to snuggle in the beddings to regain my composure.
Careful not to wake Megumin, I cautiously got inside the bedding, feeling Megumin's warmth and peaceful breathing besides me as I think
Wrong!
What a cunning trap, I was sleeping besides Megumin before I realized it.
I was about to get up when I noticed.
What would I do next after rushing out of the bedding?
If I did that, I would definitely wake Megumin right?
And then, it would be just like the typical development in manga and anime.

That's right, it would be the beginning of my sentencing trial I have no hope of defending.

If that happens, even if I argue I was set up by the parents and didn't do anything, no one would listen.

How unjust.

Just like the sentencing of an innocent man accused of being a pervert on a train.

I won't make the same mistakes as my predecessors.

Since I knew I would be treated unreasonably despite not doing anything...!

— Going by this logic in reverse, I chose to make this not a crime.

Megumin's steady breath blew into my ear.

Oh no, my heartbeat was rising.

I was going to do something incredible right now.

However, I am not a holy man without lust, but a sexually frustrated man you could find anywhere.

Allowing a healthy boy to sleep in the same boy with a pretty girl, something would definitely happen.

Most importantly it was Megumin's parent who set up this situation.

It's okay, I can win.

With so many things going for me, even if I face Sena in the trial, I will definitely win...!

When I was making up my mind to put my thoughts into action.

Megumin opened her eyes wide, looking at me with sleepy eyes as if she wanted to grasp the situation.

"Morning. Did you sleep well?"

"Hmmm... Morning Kazuma... Erm, how long did I sleep...?"

It was already midnight.

It wasn't too late into the night yet, but it had been about eight hours since Megumin said she would sleep for a while and fell into deep slumber.

"I see..."

After that, she suddenly reacted to the situation she was in.

"... So, why am I sleeping in the same bedding as Kazuma?"

She said as she stared at the ceiling.

I looked up at the same ceiling and said.

"... Don't make me say it, it's embarrassing."

"What did you say!?"

Megumin jumped when she heard my words.

"Hey, don't pull the blankets, it's cold. Calm down first."

"Why are you so calm!? The first thing I noticed after waking up was that I was sleeping with Kazuma in my nostalgic room!? How can I stay calm...!"

Megumin said as she charged out of the blanket and patted her own body.

She seemed to be checking if anything was done to her.

She then breathed a sigh of relief...

"Hey, you really think I am a lowlife who will do something to you while you were sleeping? I had been wondering for a while now, what do you all think I am? We have been living in the same mansion for over a year now and nothing happened right? Darkness too, treating me like some sort of beast when she heard I would be sleeping with Megumin."

I pulled back the blanket that was opened when Megumin got out. It was cold, so I only showed my face from the blanket.

In response, Megumin answered awkwardly.

"... Ugh. You, you... have a point, sorry... I'm a bit confused seeing this straight after waking up... you, you are right, Kazuma might sexually harass others when you crack jokes, but is not someone who will do it for real."

Megumin said as she smiled and relaxed.

I maintained my position of keeping only my head out of the blanket and said to Megumin:

"Of course, don't look down on me. After all, your mother was the one who pushed me into this room. She even locked it with a spell, so I have no choice but to hide in the blanket."

Megumin sighed deeply when she heard that.

She seemed to be expressing that she finally understood the situation.

"Really, she..."

She muttered in a relaxed voice. I opened the blanket for her, patting the space besides me.

"That's how it is. It's cold outside, so get in. Don't worry, I won't do anything."

Megumin's expression stiffened when she heard that.

She lowered her head and said in a disappointed tone—

"... You really won't do anything? It's just the two of us here."

She said something that stirred my imagination.

Hmm?

What, what is this? Is it fine to do something?

Holding my hand when we were camping outside and the current situation, spring has come!

I immediately dismiss what I just said.

"Don't be stupid, it's such a rare chance for the two of us to be alone, how can I not do anything! I have even gotten permission from your parent!"

Megumin dashed for the window when she heard that.

"I knew that would happen! I will sleep over at Yunyun's place tonight!!"

"Ahh!? Damn, it's a trap!!"

Megumin leapt out of the room through the window and disappeared into the night.

Chapter 4 – Gifting a Proper Excuse in this Restless Night!

Part 1

The next morning.

After finishing breakfast, we bid farewell to Megumin's parent who had to go for work, and lazed around the living room.

"Megumin, Megumin, it's a rare chance for us to visit, so take us sightseeing around the village."

Aqua said to Megumin who returned from Yunyun's house early in the morning.

"Sightseeing... You do know this village is at war with the demon king army?"

I retorted, but after seeing how the Crimson Magic clan ravage the demon king army yesterday, it was understandable why Aqua said that.

"No problem. Since the village is safe, we can teleport back to Axel if you want to. Since Aqua proposed so, let's spend the day relaxing in the village and stay another night."

Even the subject in question said so.

"Hmm, so there are people here who could teleport us to Axel. The journey back would be much easier."

That was great news for me.

I didn't need to pass through the orcs' territory again.

"Trashzuma² seem really happy. I will be sightseeing together with Megumin, what about the others?"

"Alright, I don't have anything to do anyway, so I... Hey, what did you just call me?"

I turned to Aqua, who tilted her head puzzled.

"Did I say something strange?"

"No, no... Just my imagination... right...? Never mind, what about you, Darkness?"

I toss the topic to Darkness, and she stopped cleaning her armour for a moment.

"There is somewhere I want to go. I heard the blacksmith here are really skilled, so I want to visit as an armour enthusiast. Scumzuma³, go ahead with your sightseeing without me."

"Well, okay... Hey, what did you just say?"

² Trashzuma ⇒ Kuzuma (Kuzu mean trash)

³ Scumzuma ⇒ Kasuma (Kasu mean scum)

"So it would be Aqua, Lowlifezuma⁴ and me sightseeing. There are many scenic places in the village, I don't think it would be boring—"

"Wait a minuteeeee!"

I started yelling. Aqua still looked confused.

"What is it, Trashzuma who wanted to make a move on the sleeping Megumin?"

"I am very sorry...!!"

I covered my face with hand and slumped weakly.

Megumin seemed to have told everything to the two of them before I got up.

However, I am a healthy boy, it would be hard not to go with the flow when I am placed in such a position.

Or rather, it would be rude not to make a move to the girl sleeping in the same bed.

After my passionate speech.

"I hope the orcs attack you again."

Megumin looked at me as if I was trash.

Part 2

Some time later, after I treat her to all sorts of food in the only cafe in the village, Megumin gave in and finally relented, taking us sightseeing.

"What is this?"

That was my first impression.

She brought me to a building that looked like a shrine and said "this is the holy relic of this village..."

"No matter how I look at it, this is a figurine of a cat ear girl in swimwear."

A figurine of a girl was placed deep within the shrine in deep reverence.

"A long time ago, our ancestors saved a traveler who was attacked by monsters... As thanks, the traveler gifted this holy relic to our ancestors. The traveler said this is a relic even more important than his own life. We don't know what goddess this was, but good things might happen if we pray to it, so we placed it here in deep reverence. I heard the way to construct these buildings known as shrines was taught to our ancestors by this traveler."

⁴ Lowlifezuma ⇒ Gesuma (Gesu mean Lowlife)



That traveler was definitely Japanese.

"Hey Kazuma, it displeases me that figurine is being treated as well as me, a goddess."

"As the one who sent the guy with this thing here, you should be the one apologizing to the Crimson Magic clan."

— Megumin was baffled by our reaction, and brought us to the second scenic attraction.

"This is the holy sword that is said to grant immense powers to the one who pulls it out."

"As expected of the Home of the Crimson Magic! Such an amazing thing!"

Before me was a sword in a boulder.

Whoever draws this sword would be the chosen one and received legendary power... A cliché setting in games.

"Hey hey, can we try?"

"That is fine, but it will take some time, you need to pay a challenge fee to the old blacksmith first. You can challenge this after paying, and each person will have only one try."

Megumin poured a cold bucket over the excited me...

Take some time?

And challenge fee?

"Isn't this a sword only the chosen hero could draw? Ah, maybe the seal will grow weaker after some time, and it would be easier to draw...?

"The old blacksmith made this sword to attract tourist. A spell had been casted on it, only the ten thousandth person could pull it out. There have only been a hundred or so challengers. After all, this sword has only been here for four short years."

"Hey, isn't the history of his holy sword too recent?"

I retorted.

Aqua admired the holy sword from up close.

"Hey, I can probably break the seal with my magic, can I take this sword with me?"

"Please don't do that. This is one of the attractions in this village, don't pull it out!"

— Next we went to a fountain under the shade of a tree.

"This is known as the 'Wishing Fountain'. There is a legend about this fountain. If you give offerings such as axes or coins, you can summon the goddess of gold and silver. Even now, there are people who throw axes and coins in."

This sounded like a messed up versions of a tale from my world.

"I don't know who spread this legend... If not for the kind blacksmith who clear the fountain periodically, this place would have become a realm of unlimited blade works."

"... By the way, what did the blacksmith do with the coins and weapons he fished out?"

"He recycles them into new weapons and armour of course."

I think I have an idea who started this legend.

"Well then, off to the next attraction... Hmm? Where did Aqua go?"

Now that she mentioned it, Aqua was gone.

Suddenly, a ripple appeared in the still fountain—

"... Hey, what are you doing? I can't let my guard down with you around."

The goddess of water (self proclaimed) pokes her head out of the water.

She dove into the water when I wasn't paying attention.

"I heard there are people who threw their coins in, so I dove down and picked them up... Hey, when it is the tourist season, I will allow you to hire me as the goddess of this fountain."

"Okay, I will throw an axe into the water, catch it and turn it into money for me."

While I was looking around for something to throw, Aqua started swimming away.

"Let's go to the next attraction, next one!"

The next place was an entrance underground that didn't look aesthetic at all.

In a word, it was like the entrance to a nuclear shelter...

"This is the underground facility that seals the 'weapon that might destroy the world'. No one knows when it appeared here... I heard that this facility was built at the same time as that mysterious facility over there..."

There was a giant mysterious facility in the direction Megumin was pointing at.

What was that thing for? It looked like a building made from concrete.

"What do you mean by mysterious facility? What is that building used for?"

"I mean it is literally a mysterious facility. Even after going inside to investigate, we still don't know who built it, for what purpose or even when it was built. So we call it the mysterious facility and it has been like this all this time."

What was with this village?

"By the way, the 'weapon that might destroy the world'... sounds really scary. However, everyone in Crimson Magic are experts in magic, the seal won't be undone so easily. It is a good choice to seal it away here."

I said to myself.

"Hey, Megumin, are there any other amazing things being sealed here?

"You came too late, there were the 'tomb of the evil god' and 'place where the unknown goddess was sealed'. But something happened and their seals were broken."

"Isn't your seals here too unreliable!? Hey, is it fine to put the 'prohibited weapon that might just destroy the world' in this place!?"

"No, no problem. To unseal the place, you need to solve the riddle and input the correct answer. The riddle is written in an ancient language no one understands... So there are no problems, so trust me on this!"

— Megumin said there was a place she wanted to go and brought us to a certain shop.

This should be a tailor shop.

The entrance of the shop had an old signage with a clothing logo. I could see the shop owner through the glass' door wearing long black robes and a stern expression.

Megumin entered and the shop owner shot a glance at us...

"Welcome... Hmm? Megumin, are these two outsiders?"

He asked while studying us with sharp eyes.

Aqua was a frightened by his gaze and hid behind me.

What, what? Was something wrong?

Could it be, some of them have prejudice towards outsiders?

My heart rate increased. Megumin nodded her head.

The shop owner suddenly jumped up and flicked his cape nimbly inside the cramped shop.

"I am Chekera! Archwizard that wields advanced magics! Shop owner of the number one tailor shop in the Crimson Magic clan!"

So the people in the village couldn't make self introduction without going through the whole motion?

After stating his name and title in all seriousness, the shop owner smiled with satisfaction.

"Once again, welcome to my shop! Ara, it's been so long since I saw an outsider! How long has it been since I made my grand introduction!? Thanks to you, I am much more relaxed now."

... So this is a way to relieve stress.

"I am Satou Kazuma. This is the top tailor shop of the Crimson Magic, that's impressive."

The shop owner smiled happily because of my praise.

"This is the only tailor shop in the Home of the Crimson Magic after all."

"Are you messing around with me?"

I retorted on reflex.

"There aren't many shops in the village anyway. This is the only tailor and there is only one shoe shop. All the other shops are one of a kind too."

That Buzucoily guy also said he would inherit the number one shoe shop of the Crimson Magic.

Megumin averted her face awkwardly under my gaze of disgust.

"Putting that aside... What brings you here? You want new clothes?"

Megumin answered:

"I want to buy a spare robe to wear, do you have the same type as the one I am wearing? Yunyun gave me this robe, but it isn't convenient if there is only one."

She said as she showed the robe she was wearing to the shop owner.

"— This type... I have a batch that had just been dyed."

We were brought before a row of robes hanging from a laundry pole.

The robes on it were all the same type as Megumin's.

"I will take them all."

"All of them? Oh, that Megumin is now a bourgeois... Seems like you are doing well as an adventurer."

"Of course, it is about time the people in the village learn about my exploits outside. And this robe is my battle wear, it would be good to have more of it... And so, Kazuma who is going to be rich soon, lend me money."

"Ah, you... Sigh, forget it, we will probably not visit this village ever again, I will lend you some."

After making a tidy profit, the shop owner was all smiles as he took down all the robes from the laundry pole.

I yelped when I saw the thing that I thought was a laundry pole.

"... Hey."

"...? What is it?"

Megumin seemed to be asking what is wrong with the laundry pole.

"You, this... Hey wait, how can use this terrible thing as a laundry pole!?"

"Ara, you know what this thing is used for, customer? This laundry pole had been passed down my family for generations. It won't rust, so we treat it like a treasure."

The shop owner said with a peaceful face...

Aqua looked at the laundry pole and said curiously:

"No matter how I look at it, isn't this a rifle?"

That's right.

It was about the size of a laundry pole, but looked dangerous like an extra long rifle. And it was actually being used as a laundry pole.

The villagers must not have known this was a weapon.

Cat ear shrine, holy relic, this rifle and the mysterious concrete building... What was wrong with this village?

Part 3

After leaving the shop, we walked around the village and rested on the grass of a small hill.

"The view here is really great. If I knew, I would have brought our lunch box and picnic here."

"If you want to see the view, there is an observation platform at the top of the hill. The magic telescope is powerful enough to see the demon king castle. I heard the most recommended watch spot is the room of the demon king's daughter."

"You guys are really worthless, even the demon king's castle has been commoditised by you."

Aqua who was lying casually on the grass said:

"Hey Megumin, the view is nice here, but didn't I told you I wanted to visit somewhere romantic?"

"This place is romantic. This is known as the 'hill of the demon god', legends say that if you confess here and become a couple, you would be bounded together by the curse of the demon god, and can never break up. This is a romantic attraction made for lovers..."

"What a depressing love story! It is not romantic at all...! What is that?"

The entire village could be clearly seen from the top of the hill.

There were black figures squirming outside the wooden fence, near Megumin's home.

Feeling that it was suspicious, I looked with my farsight skill...

"Hey Megumin! There are demon king army people there! Isn't that near your house!?"

Megumin's home was in a corner of the village, further away from the homes of the others.

These people who were probably from the demon king army was gathering in the place that could be considered the outskirts quietly.

Since the alarm wasn't raised, it means the Crimson Magic clan didn't notice them yet.

"Let me take a look. They are really relentless. I don't understand why they keep attacking despite us beating them up so thoroughly. If they are sneaking around, their objective is probably not to attack the people, but the something like the facility inside the village?"

Facility inside the village...?

"Isn't there a tomb sealing an evil god? An objective that matches the demon king army would be the revival of an evil god... But isn't the seal broken?"

"It was broken. What else would the demon king army want... Could it be the holy relic inside the cat ear shrine 1?"

"If the demon king really wants something like that, I think it would be better for him to be wiped out along with this village."

Well then, what was their goal then?

"Maybe they are aiming for the prohibited weapon that might just destroy the world or something?"

"That is impossible. After all, that facility is sealed differently from the other places, and no one knows the way to use that weapon."

Why was this village keeping so troublesome?

"Anyway, no one in the village discovered them yet, the village will be invaded! Let's hurry down and tell everyone that the demon king's army is here!"

"As expected of Kazuma, skillful in using the influence of others to intimidate people."

So what if I am!?

Part 4

I asked all the villagers I ran into along the way to join us as we went to Megumin's home and found...

"What is with this woman!? Where did she come from!? What is your goal!?"

"Sylvia-sama! She didn't run for help and lack any means to attack powerfully, that is too suspicious! This might be a trap, let's retreat!"

After breaking in through the wooden fence, the demon king's army was facing off against Darkness who was wielding a greatsword.

"You shall not pass! If will have to defeat me if you want to go any further! However, I will definitely not be defeated by the likes of the demon king army!"

"What a troublesome woman! Her attacks are pathetic, but her defence are incredibly tough! Why can't she just run after learning the difference in our prowess!? Sylvia-sama, let's ignore her and complete our main objective!"

Darkness who made it back to Megumin's home after hearing the sound of the wooden fence breaking was stalling time for us.

The demon king's army was blocked by Darkness and couldn't make it further.

I was moved by Darkness' growth after seeing her performance that exceeded expectations.

"Darkness, good work in hanging in there for so long! We are here to save you!"

"Ka, Kazuma!? What, why are you here so soon..."

Darkness mumbled in regret...

I was an idiot for feeling moved just now.

"I was disappointed when I heard the orcs I had great hopes for were all female, and now, even the demon king's army boss is a woman! Hey, if you have any pride as an underling of the demon king, show me your might! If you have the guts, make me submit to you and scream 'Master~\(\circ\)" or something!"

"Just shut up, you just mess up your chance to put up a great performance."

Seeing the Crimson Magic clansmen I brought along, the demon king army boss turned purple from fear.

To protect her subordinates, the boss stood in front of them. This one was Sylvia right?

"Hee... Did you miss your attack on purpose to make us underestimate you, but your real purpose was to buy time? With the defences powerful enough to stop us for so long, you must be a high leveled crusader... Not hitting my minions with your attack was just an act to hide your real skills huh... Not bad..."

"... Ah ah, since, since you saw through it... It can't be helped..."

The aristocratic lady who was being overestimated and not good at lying, glanced my way seeking help.

The powerful Crimson Magic mob was behind me though.

Since they had the wrong idea about Darkness, I will use this chance to scare them a little.

"You are Sylvia right? That crusader is my comrade, and the hero who took an explosion head on in the battle with demon king army boss Vanir. To understand her true abilities in so short a time, you are pretty good..."

"Hey Megumin, the way Kazuma is putting it seems weird."

"Shh! It looks interesting, so let's observe for now. Maybe he will boost about us too."

The two of them whispered besides me.

The Crimson Magic clansmen were also watching the development with interest.

Alright, I will do just that for Megumin this time.

"... Vanir, you say? I heard he went to Axel and never came back... Could it be you all...!?"

Sylvia and her minions retreated a few steps with a shocked expression.

"That's right, the one beside me— Megumin, dealt him the final blow."

After hearing what I said, not just Sylvia, even the Crimson Magic clansmen was surprised.

My words made Megumin stiffen her lips, trying hard to suppress her smile.

"Not just that, the four of us even faced the dullahan Beldia, the deadly poison slime Hans, and the Mobile Fortress Destroyer which had a high bounty... and defeated them all!"

"What, what did you say!...? I heard about the defeat of Beldia, but when did Hans—!? His periodic report from Alcanretia stopped, so it might be true...!"

I see, the Home of the Crimson Magic and Alcanretia was rather far apart, so having checking in periodically made sense.

She probably found my words very convincing, Sylvia clicked her tongue with hate.

"... You are the leader of your team right, can you tell me your name?"

My, my name? I don't want a boss of the demon king army to remember my name...

"..... Mitsurugi Kyoya. That is my name."

"Mitsurugi...! So, I understand, I heard about the Magic sword user Mitsurugi... You have a weird sword with you too, so it is you. You are my type you know...? But for the Crimson Magic clan and a powerful character like you to be here, this is troubling. Can you let me off this one time?"

Sylvia probably mistook my katana for the magic sword and started pleading for clemency.

Mitsurugi would not have any problems even if the demon king army marked him.

And from what Sylvia said, the demon king army already knew about Mitsurugi.

"... This jerk got scared at the crucial moment again. He just had to state that fellow's name."

"He was arrogant because of the mob of Crimson Magic clansmen behind him, but he is backing off right now."

The audience sure was noisy.

"That's true, it would be my victory if we fought. It won't feel right even if I do so, since it would be like I am borrowing the might of the Crimson Magic. I will grant you leave this one time... If, the Crimson Magic clan behind me is willing to let you go of course."

I said with a brave smile...

"My deep thanks, Mitsurugi, farewell, we will have a proper match next time! My name is Sylvia, a boss of the demon king army...! Retreat!"

"You can't escape! Lightning Strike!"

"Light of Saber!"

"Catch her for magic experimentation ahhhhh!"

Sylvia turned and fled with her minions while the Crimson Magic mob chased behind.

Seeing off Sylvia who was leading her underlings in flight, I said while pondering something:

"— Boss of the demon king army Sylvia huh..."

"Hey Kazuma, you are not done with your act yet?"

Part 5

"That Onee-san was amazing! She was fine even after being hit by magic and arrows!"

— That night.

We decided to spend the night at Megumin's again. After dinner, Darkness earned rave praise for her performance earlier today.

"Haha, it's nothing... As a crusader, this isn't much..."

Darkness who wasn't used to being praised sat gracefully in the living room. Komekko's words made her feel shy.

"I heard about it too, Darkness-san. You are the one who stopped Sylvia's infiltration right? This team is really dependable, I can leave my daughter in Kazuma-san's care without worries now. Oh right, about the room allocation tonight, Kazuma-san..."

Madam leaned this way as she spoke. I noticed something at this moment.

"Eh, where did Hyoizaburo-san go?"

"My husband said he had plenty of work to do and decided to sleep over at his workshop... I will heat the water up then."

Madam said nonchalantly and left the living room in a hurry.

When we were eating dinner together just now, Hyoizaburo-san was throwing a fit, saying 'I am worried about my daughter, so I will sleep with Kazuma-san tonight'.

... Did Madam do something again?

"By the way, your taunts are great, let's settle things with Sylvia next time!"

"That's a great idea, I already ordered a popular model of armour from a skilled blacksmith and it will be done in a few days. Hehe, I am looking forward to the armour and the duel with Sylvia...!"

Megumin and Darkness clenched their fists excitedly.

I made it clear to the both of them:

"What nonsense are the two of you saying? We are going home tomorrow. We finished sightseeing and have no reason to stay in this village. We will rush home with haste tomorrow and spend our days lazing at home."

"Ah!?" x2

When they heard what I said, Megumin and Darkness shouted in surprise.

Agua who was drinking wine and eating pod peas chipped in:

"Running away after saying such a cool line? Didn't she ask you to settle things with her next time?"

"Fighting a beautiful boss would weigh on my conscience, so let's adopt a more conservative strategy this time. We can enjoy a bubbly NEET life after going home, so why should I wait here for that demon king army boss to find trouble with me?"

"Why you! After making such a grand scene, you are going to run away!?"

"You are not planning to meet them ever again after intimidating them so much!? That's going too far!"

Their reactions were intense.

"Not really, I was just thinking that we will be going home tomorrow, so I acted cool for fun. The chance of us meeting again would be very low. Or else, why would I say something like that to the boss of the demon king army? I only did so because the Crimson Magic mob got my back in the Home of the Crimson Magic."

"This fellow is too much! What a jerk!"

"And you call yourself a human being!?"

I covered my ears and ignored their complaints.

"Everyone, the water is ready... Ara, what is the matter?"

"Nothing, let me take the bath first."

"Hey wait, don't run!"

"We are not done yet!"

I rushed into the bathroom with curses coming from behind me.

— After my bath, I came back relaxed and found Aqua who seemed all steamed up heading to her room.

"Hmm? Why do you look as if you just had a bath?"

"I bathed outside, they told me there is a bathhouse nearby called 'mixed hotspring'."

Hey, why didn't anyone tell me. We would be heading back tomorrow, what should I do?

While I was deliberating whether to stay for another night...

"Megumin, where are you going so late at night!? I won't allow my daughter who is in her delicate age to stay outside! You came back from somewhere early this morning too!"

"For me who am in my delicate age, my own house is the most dangerous, so I will sleep over at Yunyun's! You are scheming to make me sleep with Kazuma, right!?"

"Ara, it would be fine if it is Kazuma-san. Trust your mother's judgement. He definitely would not let me down..."

"You are turning against your daughter for an outsider! No, you only said that because you understood his true nature right? 'Not let you down' means exactly that, correct!"

I heard Megumin arguing with her mother at the entrance.

"I don't care what you are quarreling over, I am going to sleep... After my bath, I see that even Darkness is sleeping, I should turn in too..."

Aqua stretched tiredly and walked towards her assigned room, she probably drank too much.

Looking carefully, Darkness sleeping posture looked unnatural.

Without doubt, the madam must have...

"No point talking about this further! I am sleeping over at Yunyun's place!"

"I won't let vou escape! Ankle Snare!"

"Wha, what!? You used magic on your own daughter, are you really a mot..."

"Sleep."

I heard something hitting the floor after Madam uttered her spell.

Finally, Madam showed me a gentle smile.

"I am sorry, Kazuma-san, my daughter fell asleep at a strange place... Could you help me carry her into her room?"

Part 6

— What should I do?

How should I handle this situation?

"Hey Megumin, stop pretending to sleep, you are awake right!?"

I said to Megumin who was in deep slumber besides me.

And of course, Megumin didn't answer at all.

I was the type that would go easily with the flow.

Could I really go all the way for this?

I thought back to how Megumin suddenly grabbed my hand at the camp site, and held her hands as I listened to her steady breathing.

Her hands were a bit cold, so it felt really comfortable holding them.

... My mind raced.

I would just be a criminal if I carried on.

First, I need a proper reason for me to lay my hands on Megumin inside the bedding.

... And suddenly, inspiration struck.

When Megumin woke up last night, I snuggled into her bedding by saying that it was too cold outside. I just need to turn this excuse into reality.

I just needed to lower the temperature of this room until it was necessary to hide inside the blanket.

That's right, my powers probably existed just for today.

Holding Megumin's hand with my right, I put my left hand and hand outside of the blanket and casted a spell on the window.

"Freeze!"

A blow that used up almost all the mana within me.

This spell froze the surface of the window, encasing it with several centimeters of ice.

And the temperature in the room dropped drastically.

Oh, that was the effect I was after!

With the window frozen, Megumin couldn't escape by the window like she did yesterday!

Perfect.

I am really a genius to have thought of such a flawless plan! ... While I was impressed with my scheme... "... Ugh..." Maybe I was too loud in chanting my spell, Megumin seemed to have woken up. "Morning Megumin, did vou sleep well?" "... Morning. Hmm? Is this my room?" Megumin held hands with me as she looked around the room in a daze. She was probably still half asleep. Finally, she realized she was holding my hand. —!! You finally crossed the line you beast! Kazuma you animal! I thought the most you can do is sexual harassment, but is a coward who don't have the guts to do it when the time comes!" Megumin charged out of the beddings with tears in her eyes. "Hey hold it, I didn't do anything! It's just handholding, don't make such a fuss! Look, isn't it much colder than yesterday!? I only held your hand unconsciously because it was too cold." Megumin realized the room was exceptionally cold after I said so. She shivered. She then checked her body carefully and finally said with a blushed face. "You, you really didn't do anything!? And with the lesson from yesterday, I won't trust you so easily." "Idiot, how long did you think you have been sleeping? I had been staying by your side honestly all this while." "Is, is that so? Sorry Kazuma, I misunderstood you again. That's true, if Kazuma had the guts to cross the line, you would have took a gamble and made a move on Darkness... I said something rude, I apologize." Megumin said apologetically under the vague moonlight. "Ah, it's fine. However, it would be nice to thank me once in awhile right? You all keep getting caught up in

troublesome matters, I have to keep cleaning up after you. Don't you think I deserve some thanks?"

That's why such a scene that made my heart skip a beat was my just reward.

I wanted to say more, but I couldn't continue when I saw Megumin's face that was lit up under the moonlight.

"... Gratitude right? You have a point."

Megumin who always looked at me with wrath, resignation or pitiness, had a rare smile that match girls her age.

Hmm?

Her straightforward expression made me feel uneasy.

"... Thank you for taking me in when I had nowhere to go in Axel, even though I am a troublesome mage that could only use explosion spell. Thank you for carrying me home after I exhaust my mana. Thank you for letting me stay on the team despite all the troubles I caused you."

The Megumin who was always picking a fight said something out of character for her.

Her white porcelain skin contrasted with her black hair, had a hint of red.

The signs of the Crimson Magic—her red eyes glowed with mesmerizing light.

"What is the matter? I am just thanking you right? Weren't you the one who asked for this? Why are you acting so shy?"

Megumin said to me mischievously as I just stared at her dumbfounded.

Ah, I feel so embarrassed right now.

She always gave me attitude, but being gentle with me so suddenly caught me at a loss.

I hesitated on what to say.

"... Well, erm, I was saved by you all numerous times too. According to your customs... I am Satou Kazuma, the one who get dragged repeatedly into troublesome matters, holder of the weakest job in Axel. My goal is to earn big money and live happily ever after with all of you... Please, please take care of me from now on!"

I became more embarrassed as I went on. Megumin giggled.

"Me too, please take care of me from now on... By the way, it is really cold today. The house is run down, so maybe the cold got in from somewhere... Erm, Kazuma really won't do anything to me right? It's too cold, so I will go back into the blanket."

Megumin said as she snuggled into the bedding with a red face.

Getting into the bedding under such an atmosphere would make me more nervous.

But it was really cold today.

It couldn't be helped...

... At this moment, I noticed the ice on the window.

What excuse should I make if someone saw them?

If Megumin saw that, the Kazuma stock that rose after so much effort would definitely plummet.

What was I thinking when I did something that dumb?

I might have acted a little too desperate.

At this moment, Megumin leaned towards me.

She was much closer than before, when we were lying side by side.

"... Me-Megumin, aren't you a bit too close..."

Megumin said as if she was teasing me.

"You are always sexually harassing me, and now you act all timid? And didn't you say you won't do anything right? It would be fine then." My nervousness was totally different from just now. It would be fine. That's right, that wasn't much. After all, I did say something really embarrassing and she became really trusting. If she saw the frozen window, her wrath would reach historical height. All of a sudden, my right hand was covered by something cold. Seemed like Megumin was holding onto my hand willingly. "... Hey hey, don't be so proactive, young girl. That time at the campsite too, if you do something like that out of the blue, my heart won't be able to take it... Last night, Darkness even told your mother that letting you sleep with me was like putting a lamb into the cage of a beast that had been starving for a week." The room was cold but I started sweating, my voice was one pitch higher because of nervousness. In response, Megumin laughed. "Did Darkness said that? But she also said that even in a situation where you can do it for real, you would be too timid to act and brush it off with a joke." That bitch! "Hey, what do you talk about with Darkness when you are alone with her? Tell me, I promise I won't get angry." Megumin panicked a little when she heard me and averted her head. "... Hey, you two must have been speaking ill of me." "It's a secret. Be, besides that, let's tuck in early. We are returning to Axel tomorrow right? Let's go back to our peaceful days there." She was trying to brush it off. ... At this point, Megumin who was hiding in the blankets said shyly: "... I feel like visiting the washroom."

With that, she climbed out of the bedding.

"Ah, but your mum locked the door today—"

"She really... Never mind, I will go out from the windows tonight..."

— Before I finish, Megumin smiled wryly.

... Hey, wait!

Megumin looked at the windows and stood there stiffly.

... I covered my ears and hid my head back under the blanket and curled into a ball.

That's right, this was the perfect chance to activate 'hide'.

While I was doing that, Megumin stared at the window blankly.

"... Kazuma, what is going on?"

"... Jack Frost passed by just now, and left after freezing the window."

Megumin pull my blanket off immediately!

"Kazuma! What happened just now!? This must be Kazuma's handiwork! I knew Kazuma did this, but I don't understand what your objective is! Why did you freeze the window!?"

So cold!

It's really cold after she took the blanket.

I curled into a ball and evaded Megumin's gaze.

"...If I tell you that honestly, will you promise not to be mad?"

"If you don't tell me, I will get everyone to treat you in a crueler manner than today."

— I confessed everything.

"... Are you an idiot? Is Kazuma someone who can react according to the situation, or an idiot? Give my gratitude just now back!"

"You are absolutely right. I think it is strange too, why did I act so dumb for two nights in a row."

Maybe I had been traveling too much recently and my brain had burned out.

Megumin knocked on the frozen glass gently.

The freeze magic that used up all of my mana left a thick layer of ice on the window, it won't break just by knocking it a little.

Seeing that, Megumin rushed to the door:

"Open the door! Hey open it...! Mom, mom!"

She kept yelling as she banged on the door.

However, the house was silent and no one showed any signs of waking up.

It was too cold, so I sneakily picked up the blanket and covered myself.

"... How should I put this, it's cold so let's sleep for now. It will be fine, I won't do anything, trust me. If you can't hold it in... There's an empty bottle over there."

"Let me ask you again, what do you want me to do with that empty bottle!? And I trusted you until just now, but I feel a sense of danger like never before! Ahhh, this is really..."

Megumin yelled at me as she held back her anger.

The warm atmosphere earlier was completely gone.

"It's my fault, I guarantee you that I won't do anything. I must have been possessed by an evil spirit to have frozen the window with magic. I'm really sorry."

When she heard that—

"At least say that when you are out of the blanket..."

Megumin gave up on doing anything to me and returned into the bedding. She probably couldn't stand the cold anymore.

"Yahoo!"

"Kazuma, you will get it from me in the morning."

In response to my exclamation of joy, Megumin announced this to me with red glowing eyes.

A certain great man once said, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself."

And so, I decided to follow the teachings of my predecessors and live in the present.

Megumin who proactively held my hand earlier was sleeping in a corner with her back towards me.

This felt like a married couple who were tired of each other.

"... Hey, aren't you cold? I am really cold, so come closer."

"... I really want you to give back the nice atmosphere just now..."

Megumin said in resignation. I chanted as softly as I could.

"Freeze."

"You just complained about it being cold, and you are casting freeze!? Just how much do you want to stick to me!?"

After I was scolded by Megumin,

"Sigh... There is only one pillow, so Kazuma use it. I will sleep on your arm."

Megumin mumbled and leaned over.

"Hey hey, I will feel troubled if you lean over so obediently."

Megumin ignored me and placed her head onto my right arm, her face touching my chest.

"Just like Darkness said, 'even in a situation where you can do it for real, you would be too timid to act and brush it off with a joke.""

Megumin said as she giggled inside the blanket.

... Hmm?

Could it be, Megumin wasn't unwilling?

So it is my period of popularity...!

Just when my faint hope was gradually growing.

"Demon king army alert! Demon king army alert! A portion of the demon king army had infiltrated the village!"

... Yeah yeah yeah, I know it would be like this.

Part 7

Madam opened the door with a face of pity after hearing the alarm.

I took my sword and dashed out together with Megumin.

Once outside, we met with Sylvia who was covered in wounds.

"Ah... ahhhh! Just a bit further! A little more...! ... Sigh, why must I meet you at a time like this!? As expected of you, my subordinates' diversion attack didn't work on you at all! Did you rush here after realizing my true objective? Mit—"

"You are noisy, shut it."

Wearing pyjamas and bare footed, I drew my sword and approached Sylvia slowly.

When she heard me, Sylvia—

"Asking me to shut it? You might be a magic sword user, but a mere human dare—"

"Didn't I tell you to shut it!? Are you looking for a beating!? Interrupting me when things are going so well, who do you think you are!? What time do you think it is, you think the neighbours don't need to sleep!?"

I cut Sylvia off and roared at a boss of the demon king's army as if I this was my first time being so mad.

"Sor, sorry..."

Faced with the explosive wrath of the human, Sylvia started to panic. But she regained her composure in no time.

"Hey, how dare you yell at me, you have got guts. Come at me together with that girl there, I will finish off both of you at one go!"

Prompted by her, I turned to my back.

Before I realized it, Megumin came to my back with a staff in her hands.

Sylvia squinted her yellow feral eyes.

Just what race was she— At first glance, she looked like a beautiful woman.

If she could move around in daytime, then she was not a vampire.

Her ears were a little sharp, was she some type of devil?

She didn't have any weapons with her, what was that rope like thing on her waist for?

Steeling myself, driven by the fury of her messing up my night, I stood before Megumin as if to protect her from Sylvia.

When Sylvia saw this, she licked her lips and smiled lewdly.

"Ara ara, were you having a good time with that kid there? I really did something that spoiled the mood then."

Sylvia taunted as she lowered her guard towards me and Megumin.

From the way she glanced at my katana from time to time, she was probably still mistaking me for Mitsurugi.

"Hey! Why is so noisy in the middle of the night! What is happening? Did Megumin sleep too much and cast an explosion?"

Aqua seemed to be wakened because of the commotion and poked her head out from the entrance.

"Hey Aqua, a boss of the demon king's army is attacking! Get Hyoizaburo-san or Madam to come here!"

Aqua retreated back into the house immediately.

I really felt like slashing Sylvia who disrupted my happy times.

"I won't hold back because you are a beauty! I am all for gender equality, a man who will not hesitate in dropkicking an evil woman!"

"Ara, I was hoping you will show me some mercy. Thank you for calling me a beauty! I have the urge of eating you up!"

I was thinking of using earth and wind magic combo to blind her, but unfortunately my mana had been used to do those stupid things, so I couldn't even use them now.

I threw a bag I took when I charged out of the room at Sylvia.

"Hmm what is it? A gift for me?"

Sylvia didn't dodge, catching it with one hand.

At the same time, I slashed at her, but she caught it easily with her other hand.

Hey, what the hell was with this boss!

Sylvia who caught my katana easily refused to let go.

In the end, she showed a confused face.

"... This is a magic sword? The craftsmanship is too rough... Are you really Mitsurugi? Is the magic sword Gram something like this?"

Oh no, because the quality of the weapon and my swordsmanship was too poor, I got found out immediately.

No, it's not over yet, I will—!
"It's Chunchunmaru."
"... Ah?"

I was planning on intimidating her with lies, but Megumin spoke before I did.

"I said this sword is Chunchunmaru, this is a really normal named sword Chunchunmaru. Don't compare it with Gram, some name that sounds like the bones of a horse."

The culprit who gave my sword this weird name said passionately.

"... Fufu, hahahaha! You are not the magic sword user Mitsurugi right!? Can you tell me your real name, and why are you pretending to be Mitsurugi?"

Sylvia started laughing heartily. What's so funny?

"... My name is Satou Kazuma. I pretended to be Mitsurugi because I don't want you to know my real name and target me."

"Ah hah! Hahahahaha! That's amazing, your idea is too wonderful! I like it!"

When she heard my answer, it flipped a strange switch in Sylvia and she started laughing like a maniac.

The entrance door opened once again and Aqua poked her head out.

"Hey, I already told Madam who is waking Darkness, she will be right here!"

It happened in an instant. Sylvia pulled the katana she was grabbing towards her.

Still holding on to the katana, I lost my balance and was pulled towards Sylvia.

I let go immediately, but it was too late.

My face fell right into Sylvia's breasts.

Sylvia threw the katana aside and held me close to her chest.

Thank you for your hospitality...

No no no, it's a trap!

That's right, even if she was a big breasted woman with smooth skin, tall and slender built, a beauty with all the right curves, now was not the time to feel happy about — thank you for your hospitality!

I buried my face in Sylvia's breasts and resisted futilely...

"Stop resisting! Bind!"

This was a skill which restricts the movement of an opponent, I have seen this before.

This should be something only adventurers with rogue jobs could learn!

Is she a boss with the skills of a rogue!?

Sylvia bounded my body to her waist while I maintained the situation of having half my face buried in her breasts.

With my body close to Sylvia and a rope around us, I wondered if I would be able to live here anymore.

"This man is my hostage! That girl over there, I don't know why you didn't cast any spells, but this man would be dragged in if you do!"

"What...! Ka, Kazuma! Are you... Alright? You seemed to be enjoying yourself."

Megumin looked at me with cold eyes.

I couldn't help it, hurry and save me!

Well, don't rush on my account, but do save me!

"Hmm? You look like a devil! I won't let you escape, the one panting heavily in your chest right now is my important... important... Hey Kazuma! What is my relationship with you!? What should I say to look cool!?"

Aqua who wanted to cast some spells to stop Sylvia shouted.

It seemed like this girl stayed here for too long and was influenced by the Crimson Magic clan and refused to cast her spell without saying a cool Chunni line.

Just shout 'comrade important to me' will do, so hurry up— I wanted to shout, but with my head caught between Sylvia's breasts, I couldn't say anything.

... Just what was with me recently?

Since that day when Yunyun said she wanted to have my baby, until this night.

Yunyun, orcs, Megumin and Sylvia.

I will classify the orcs as a punishment game, but even so, on the whole, my luck was pretty good.

This was my popular period after all.

Or was it my only strong point— My high luck stat was working brilliantly?

I buried my face into her breasts and let her do whatever she wanted to.

"Hey boy, don't breath hot air into me, it's making me excited. Be a good boy and I will give you a reward later."

My popular period was definitely here!

"But, but I can't breathe like this..."

It was a joyous feeling for me, but I couldn't breathe like this.

While I was squirming to change my posture,

"Sacred Exorcism!"

Sylvia lowered her guard because she was facing my way, and Aqua used this opportunity to cast her spell.

A large column of light shot up from beneath me and Sylvia.

And of course, I was caught in it too ...!

"!? Ahhhhhh!!"

Sylvia screamed loudly.

I was also engulfed by the purification spell, but was unharmed.

In contrast to the unharmed me, Sylvia's dress was all torn up after she was hit.

"You, you have done it now...! Even my leather one piece dress made from the skin of low level devils is torn...! But too bad, I am not a pure devil. It might hurt, but it is not lethal. Listen up, if you attack again, I will kill him!"

The half naked Sylvia threatened Aqua as she undid my bounds, turned me around, and pull me close. The back of head was squeezing her breasts.

She had solved my breathing problem compassionately.

"I am Sylvia! Director of the monster enhancement division, the one who will keep modifying my own body! That's right, I am a chimera, growth chimera Sylvia! I will take this boy with me. My cute boy, become one with me again, Bind!"

... 'I am Sylvia' huh... Seemed like she had been poisoned during her repeated battles with the Crimson Magic clan.

While Sylvia was announcing her title, she planned to tie me up with bind once again.

Frankly speaking, I don't have any weapons on me and had my back to the enemy. I had no means of fighting back.

And so, I didn't resist and lifted my hands up cooperatively and allowed her to bind me with ropes.

"Ka, Kazuma! Give Kazuma bac...! ... Kazuma, you didn't resist just now, are you doing this on purpose?"

"No."

With the back of head deep within Sylvia's giant breasts, I denied it clearly.

Because Sylvia was tall, I couldn't reach the ground when my head was on her breasts. After being tied up, I was hanging in the air.

What was with this soft and serene feeling?

It was like finding the home I had been searching so hard for all this while.

Megumin was looking down at me with an ice cold glare. At this point—

"Ugh...! I was too careless...!"

When I heard this familiar voice I turned to find Darkness in casual clothes without armour panting as she ran over.

She was wearing a thin black shirt and tight skirts, with a great sword in her hands.

She probably came here in a panic after Madam woke her.

Darkness whose hair was still a mess stood in front of Aqua and glared at Sylvia.

"Demon king army boss! The people in this household had gone off to get the other Crimson Magic clansmen! It is only a matter of time before reinforcement comes. Throw that hopeless man who is closing his eyes blissfully while putting his head into your breasts, and disappear! If you want a hostage no matter what... Pick me...! I will take his place! Please let me be the hostage in place of Kazuma!"

Darkness said suddenly. Sylvia laughed cheerfully after hearing that.

"Ara, hey, you are quite the ladies man! Two lovers? But no. I like him. Hey, you are Kazuma right? How about joining the demon king army? I think you and I will get along well."

She caressed my head gently as she said that.

"... Hey, Kazuma has gotten really close to the enemy before I knew it, she is even patting his head."

Aqua didn't know what else to say, and Darkness continued—

"... Hey Kazuma, why are you stuck in a place like that...? Sigh, I really can't let my guard down. You must have been seduced by the breasts of that woman. Can't be helped, I will save you now, so stay still..."

"Don't bother."

"Huh?" x4

My instant reply made the four other person shout out harmoniously.

I laid back as if I was lying on a high class couch, rubbing my head as much as I pleased against Sylvia's bountiful breasts.

"I said don't bother. You all— especially Darkness. Your attitude towards me recently had been terrible. Sylvia-san here is treating me very nicely. You all had been treating me terribly all the time, I was just thinking of switching my allegiance to the demon king army instead. Apologize, it is about time for you to apologize for making me clean up after you girls! Megumin thanked me just now too, so apologize!"

I said to Darkness.

Darkness was stunned when I said these wilful words just like Aqua.

"Hey... Hey Kazuma, don't joke like that. You are really convincing, it don't feel like a joke at all. Erm... It's true, we were a bit mean to you... Erm, I went too far when I was introducing you to Megumin's family, sorry. Oh right, didn't you say you want a medal? I understand, your accomplishments are exemplary, when we go back to Axel I will..."

"Can you act more sincerely?! It's too late to tempt me with money now, show me your sincerity! Look closely at the situation right now! Sylvia-san is showing me her bountiful peaks! And what about your strong point? Say it! Say it now!"

I talked over Darkness and said all that in one go.

Darkness was a bit uneasy and squirmed as she said:

"My, my defence...?"

"Wrong! Isn't your strong point your slutty body that can seduce men!? Why are you saying stupid stuff and pretending to be a pure girl!?"

"Hey, this man is beyond saving. He is talking strangely, let's leave him to the demon king army."

"No, we can't, even so, he is still useful during crucial moments."

Megumin and Aqua whispered quietly to each other.

They must be discussing how best to rescue me.

Darkness covered her body shyly and said:

"I, I...! Never, did seduce...!"

She furrowed her brow as she blinked away tears, planning to refute my accusations.

"Yes you did! Really, your body is so slutty! Tonight! My luck stat is at the max! This is probably the most popular period of my life! Apologize now! If you don't want me who is at the most popular period of my life to leave with Sylvia-san, then apologize! For example... Let me think..."





I let my arrogance got the best of me and uttered these words, which made Darkness speechless. At this moment, Sylvia put her hands on my head and said.

"Good good... as expected of the man I set my eyes on! I will let you join the demon king army! But don't bully that crusader girl too much alright? You have to treat the delicate hearts of girls with care."

Darkness glared at Sylvia when she heard that.

"You are a demon, but you could empathize with the feelings of young girls huh... It is impossible to discern the age of demons from appearance, could your empathy stem from experience of being a thousand years old woman?"

Darkness taunted with a sword raised. Sylvia answered matter of factly.

"Ara, of course I understand, be it the heart of young girls or boys."

Hoho, as expected of a beauty of the demonic race, she understood the hearts of both men and women.

Sylvia continued as she caressed my head.

"After all, half of me is a man."

She added nonchalantly.

"..... What?"

I couldn't understand what she just said and turned back to face her.

Some parts of the village were probably on fire, which illuminated the sky behind her back. I noticed something at this moment.

Sylvia's lower jaw.

Not just her jaw, there was faint tint of blue around her face...

"Hmm, didn't I tell you?"

Sylvia answered.

The blue earring on her sharp right ear was sparkling...

"I am a chimera. These breasts you like so much are not natural, but added after the fact."

She was speaking as if it was nothing important.

My brain was working hard to reject what I just heard.

Doing all it could to not understand that sentence.

After all, that would mean...

I had been getting excited over the breasts of a man all this while, that...

Ah...? Hmm?

"... Ka, Kazuma!? Erm... you, pull yourself together...! Hey! Snap out of it! It, it will be okay, calm... calm down..."

I heard the soft voice of Megumin and recalled a rumour I heard long ago.

Men who wore their earrings on the right ears were—

"By the way, you really are a nice man... Just caressing your head like that makes my breasts and lower body excited."

Because of our height difference, my butt was at the height of Sylvia's nether region.

There...

"Sylvia-san, Sylvia-san, there is something hard pressed against my butt, that is my imagination right?"

In response, Sylvia said that popular Japanese phrase shyly.

"I did that on purpose."

— My brain froze.



Chapter 5 – Sending Explosions to This Damn Ruins!

Part 1

"Hey, hey, wake up."

After my body was shaken violently, I woke with a start.

It seemed that I had a nightmare, I dreamed that a transvestite was teasing me...

"... Waahhhh! Stop it Sylvia, don't come near me! Or I will kill you!!"

"Hey, calm down. Don't worry, I won't do anything weird. The Crimson Magic Clansmen have retreated, so I will let you go now. After all, you let me off once before."

After hearing what she said, I was still a bit worried, but managed to keep my cool.

I realized now that there wasn't anyone around me.

Looking around, I felt I had been here before...

"This is the entrance to the underground warehouse of the Home of the Crimson Magic, which is the place they sealed the 'Weapon that might destroy the world'."

Sylvia said as she took out something like a magic item.

"... What is that?"

"You are a smart man, you should be able to guess it right? 'Barrier Killer'— If you give you this hint, you should be able to understand."

Which means...

"Your group kept trying to infiltrate this place in order to steal that weapon right?"

"Correct. There is a powerful magic item placed inside that warehouse. According to rumours, it is a nemesis of the people in this village."

Just, just what was placed inside?

"However, I heard the seal is very unique and no one can open it. Also, no one can understand how to use that weapon."

"Hmm? No problem. The magic item I have with me is an extremely powerful barrier killer in the demon world. It can even break the seals of the gods... Huh? How, how queer..."

Sylvia squatted in front of the warehouse with her magic item in hand, and said with a baffled voice.

"The magic item is not reacting at all! This seal is not magical in nature, just what...! What, what should I do..."

Sylvia held her magic item in hand and was at a loss.

I looked at the seal from the side. On it was a touch screen keyboard complete with alphabet, numbers and arrows.

I found something very familiar written on the touch screen.

"Konami code'...? What does it mean, it wants me to input the Konami code?"

"You, you can read the ancient language!?

Sylvia gasped.

Ancient language? I don't know what you are talking about.

Wasn't that Japanese?

The Konami code was just the Konami code.

It was something from a famous game company— Konami.

"No, this is a language from my country. The Konami code is a cheat code everyone knew, and it is asking me to enter the code here..."

I realized what I was saying and wanted to cover my mouth mid way, but was caught by Sylvia's hand.

"You are really a man beyond my expectations. To think you could undo the seal neither me nor the Crimson Magic Clan could break..."

"I, I am also an adventurer, don't think that I will submit to the demon king army so easily. You saw that arch priest earlier, she could use resurrection, so it is useless to threaten to take my life..."

"Violence is not the only way to pry open the mouth of someone alright? Hehe, my skills are on par with succubus, I wonder how long you can last in such ecstasy?"

Before Sylvia even finished, I keyed in the Konami code without hesitation.

With a mechanical clang— The heavy doors opened.

"... Really, can you even call yourself a man? Sigh, never mind, time is short. It's dark in there, I wonder what's in front?"

Sylvia looked inside as she searched for something that could serve as a torchlight.

At this moment, her unguarded back was facing me.

... I might not have any weapons with me, but that is still too careless.

Well, my only means of unarmed attack was drain touch anyway.

"Hmm? Did they turn off the lights when they were running away? No choice, although my night vision is not too good in total darkness..."

I suddenly realized that I didn't need to fight in such a situation.

I sneaked to Sylvia's back.

"Hey, do you have anything that can be used as a light source"
From the back—
Pomf.
"Eh?"
— I pushed Sylvia into the dim underground warehouse.
Part 2
" <u>-!?</u> —!"
Sylvia was screaming something inside.
On the other side of the warehouse door that closed once again, I could hear banging sounds.
"Kazuma! Are you alright!? Where is Sylvia!?"
I turned back and saw Megumin rushing over in a hurry.
Yunyun and Buzucoily were here too, Megumin probably dragged them along.
"You came too later, I locked Sylvia inside with an elegant counter attack. It seems that the door can't be opened from the inside. Let's trap her in there for a couple of weeks, that should tame her down."
Megumin was a bit fearful when she heard the soft curses coming from inside.
"You, you trapped him in there!? Guess that is fine, she probably can't activate the weapon. After all, no one knows how either. But really, to think Sylvia could undo that seal."
I won't mention the fact that the seal was undid by me for now.
"T-to lock a boss of the demon king army inside Such, such a cruel way of fighting"
Darkness stared at the door that was being knocked continuously and said sympathetically.
"To capture Sylvia that escaped from our hands so many times, way to go outsider!"
"This gang of people have already taken down three bosses of the demon king army, defeating Sylvia is nothing strange."
The Crimson Magic Clansmen congregating over showered me with praise.
"Hey Kazuma, isn't that the place with the dangerous weapon? Is it really fine trapping that damn transvestite in there?"
The Crimson Magic Clansmen answered when they heard what Aqua said:
"It's fine, it's fine, even we can't comprehend how to use it, it is impossible for Sylvia to understand."
"Yeah, that's right. If Sylvia can activate the weapon, I will circle the village one round on my hands."
"Alright, let's go have a drink."

"... Hey, are they doing that on purpose? Is the Crimson Magic Clan full of people who won't feel happy unless they get into trouble? Will they feel uneasy if they don't raise such flags?"

"Don't, don't say that, I don't deny that the Crimson Magic Clan likes to find trouble, but it will be fine this time. See, it's getting quiet in there, maybe she suffocated?"

Listening carefully, I couldn't hear the curses anymore.

I had an ominous feeling about this, would it really be fine?

Even if they say that no one could activate the weapon inside...

"Hmm? ... Hey, Kazuma, can you feel the ground shaking?"

Darkness stamped her foot and asked.

"Hey, this is bad! I have a bad feeling about this! Let's get out of here and...!"

"What are you scheming, Kazuma? We managed to take out the demon king army boss right? Hey, even though Kazuma did it alone, but we are a team, so we should split the bounty huh? Hehehe, what should I buy with Sylvia's bounty money?"

Seeing Aqua counting her eggs before they hatched, I realized immediately that—things were going to be bad.

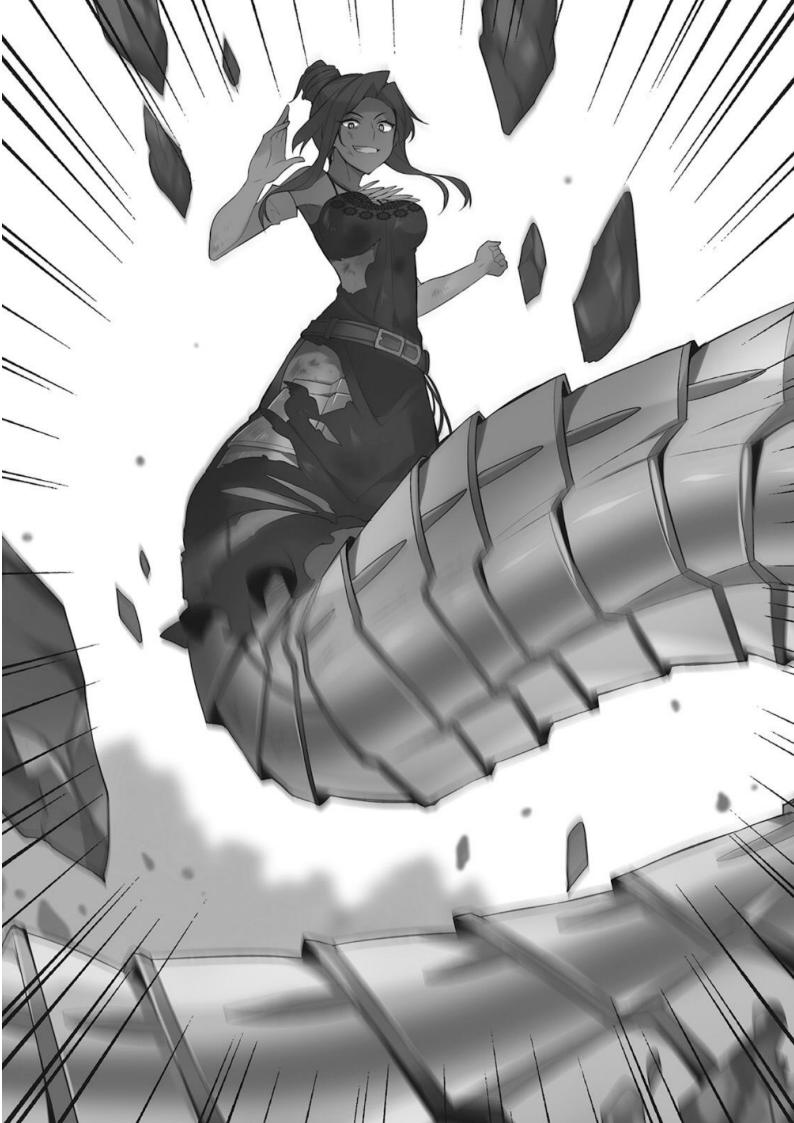
"You dumbass, why must you raise a flag every time! Hey Megumin, Darkness! Let's retreat! No, we should get the Crimson Magic Clansman to send us back to Axel...!"

Before I even finish, the ground suddenly rose and dust spread everywhere.

Under the glow of the moonlight, the one who appeared from the cloud of dust was...

"Ahh hahaha! You have got guts, boy! You think I came here just to steal the weapon? My name is Sylvia! As you can see—"

With her body turned into that of a giant snake with metallic glow...



"I am a boss of the demon king army that can combine with weapons or any other things! Growth Chimera Sylvia!"

With a loud laugh, Sylvia flaunted her victory—

"It's the 'mage killer'! She absorbed the 'mage killer'!"

The Crimson Magic Clansmen cried.

Mage Killer?

"Aahhhh, oh no Kazuma! Things are a mess! Let's run away, now, immediately, run!"

Megumin whose face had turned green pulled on my sleeve in a panic, totally different from just now.

However, I still had the Crimson Demon mob behind me.

They definitely had an ace in the hole—

"Hey, that's the 'Mage Killer'!"

"Abandon village! It's hopeless!"

"Teleport!"

Or maybe not.

"Hey Megumin, explain to me! What is a mage killer? Is it really that scary? Is that the weapon that might destroy the world!?"

I looked from the corner of my eyes at the Crimson Magic Clansmen scattering away as I shook the shoulder of Megumin who wasn't good at dealing with a crisis.

"The weapon that might destroy the world shouldn't be like that...! However, the thing Sylvia combined with was equally dangerous, something called a 'mage killer'...!"

Yunyun said with a green face.

"It's something that is completely immune to magic, the nemesis of the Crimson Magic Clan. A weapon that specializes in killing mages!"

— This is the end.

Part 3

To seek refuge, the Crimson Magic Clansmen all went to the hill of the demon god, the popular spot for couples, and watched the Home of the Crimson Magic ravaged by fire below.

"The village... is burning..."

I heard someone said softly. Turning back I found a girl who was wearing an eyepatch with the same design as Megumin, watching the burning village as she spoke sadly.

Sylvia who had taken the form of a lamia breath out fire, flooding the Home of the Crimson Magic in a sea of flame.

Most of the Crimson Magic Clansmen could use teleport magic.

There were almost zero casualties, but their residences were up in flames.

My heart ached when I saw this scene.

Is, is this because I undid the seal?

No, I was forced by the circumstances.

Also, I only undid the seal because I heard that no one knew how to activate and use the weapon...

"By the way, how did Sylvia break that seal?"

When I heard this question, I shivered.

"Did she use a magic item to break the barrier? But no matter what kind of barrier destruction item it may be, it shouldn't work on that seal."

After hearing that, my heart pounded madly as I looked down at the village being razed...

"No matter what it is, we can only abandon this village. It is frustrating for the demon king army to get its way, but we can always make a comeback if we still have our lifes."

The village chief said in a serious tone.

... What should I do?

This atmosphere was too heavy.

Oh no, is this all because of me?

Did I give in too easily and undid that seal.

"Hey Megumin, is there really no way to fight that mage killer?"

I asked Megumin besides me bitterly.

"As explained earlier, as the name implies, mage killer is a weapon specializing in exterminating mages. It is immune to magic. I heard that when the mage killer went on a rampage long ago, our ancestors used another weapon that was sealed away to destroy it. After overcoming that crisis, they repaired the mage killer as a memento and sealed it again..."

"Why did they repair such a dangerous thing with such an unrelated reason! ...No, wait, you said there is a weapon that could fight the mage killer?"

When using poison, make sure to prepare the antidote.

To prevent a weapon from rampaging, there must be another weapon that could take it out in the place of storage— This was a common precaution. Thinking about it now, it made sense.

As a safeguard, the ancestors of the Crimson Magic Clan must have kept the weapon that could defeat the mage killer should it rampage again.

In that case, with that thing—

She probably guessed what I was thinking.

"... Kazuma, unfortunately, no one knows how to use the weapon that could fight the mage killer. The instruction manual is left behind, but even the village chief couldn't read it..."

Megumin said as she stared at the burning village.

The smart Crimson Magic Clansmen must have already considered this method.

If magic was useless, it would be hopeless.

Compared to the gigantic snake body, the tall Sylvia seemed so small.

Except Darkness, anyone else would be turned into mush if they got hit.

... Were there no other way?

At this moment.

"Hmmp... I will be the decoy and lure Sylvia away. With the support of all the Crimson Magic Clansmen, I won't die so easily."

The one saying such foolish words was the muscle brained crusader from my team.

"What are you saying? Don't you know we are totally helpless here!? Are you stupid? Even a goblin know better than to fight a futile battle, are you dumber than a goblin?"

"You, you really—! We will settle this after we go back to Axel! I still remember those horrible words you said to me back then! Also, I am not doing this without any plans!"

... Plan?

"While I am aggroing Sylvia, Aqua and you who have night vision can use hide to sneak into that destroyed underground warehouse, and retrieve that whatever weapon."

"... But no one knows how to use the weapon in question! Weren't you listening!?"

I didn't know what I should say to her. Darkness rebuked:

"Of course I heard, I also understand that. But thinking about it the other way, won't the problem be solved if we know how to operate it? Taking action would be better than standing idly around here. Don't worry, I don't know what weapon that might be, but as a noble, I am rather familiar with magic items. I even fixed my father's magic camera by knocking it in the past."

I felt dizzy after hearing the words of the aristocratic lady who was more retarded than I imagined.

"... Alright, let's give it a shot."

What surprised me was that Megumin, the one most likely to protest intensely, agreed.

"I don't hate a situation where life and death depended on one single move!"

"In fact, I like it! You are outsiders, but that's pretty coo!"

Not just that, even the Crimson Magic Clansmen were standing up.

Seemed that speech moved their hearts.

Normally, I would reject in participating in such a dangerous mission. But the scene of that lonely expression of that girl with an eyepatch was impressed deeply into my mind, and I couldn't shake it away.

Damn it, it was just sneaking into the warehouse to retrieve a weapon, if I could redeem my sins by doing so...!

"Hey! The demon king army boss is still rampaging in the village, why are we doing something so dangerous like sneaking into the village!? Don't wanna! My specialty is providing support to everyone from a safe spot!!"

"Stop messing around and come with me! I can't sift through it all alone!"

I pulled the unwilling Aqua with me, and headed towards the underground warehouse in the mysterious facility...!

Part 4

In order to lure Sylvia away, the Crimson Magic Clansmen unleashed all sorts of spell at it from a distance.

Whenever Sylvia came near, the Crimson Magic Clan will pull away. A classic retreating battle.

However, the magic was ineffective and Sylvia was not hurt at all.

"How long is this futile struggle going to last? I thought the Crimson Magic Clan was smarter than this!"

Sylvia squirmed her body that was glowing metallically, mocking the Crimson Magic Clan.

Sylvia who switched from defence to offence looked determined to ravage the land to vent the frustration she had been accumulating all this while.

But the Crimson Magic Clansmen kept their distance as they taunt Sylvia, so Sylvia couldn't hurt them too. She seemed to be really frustrated.

She probably haven't gotten used to her snake shaped weapon, her movement was really slow.

The anxious Sylvia glared at a group of Crimson Magic Clansmen with murderous intent.

She took a deep breath and spit blazing flames at them.

"Teleport!"

The group disappear moments before they were engulfed by the fire.

Attackers formed teams with teleporters. After one of them finished chanting a teleportation spell, he would stand by at the side and use it during a pinch to save everyone.

The scene of Sylvia's near miss attack kept on repeating, grinding away Sylvia's patience. She then targeted one woman.

Even when the others attacked her with magic, Sylvia did not change her target, making a beeline for that woman.

Sylvia had changed her tactics to taking out one opponent at a time.

At this moment, a man watching this happening from afar screamed in despair.

He was the leader of the anti demon king army guerilla unit, Buzucoily.

"Stop, stop Sylvia! Please! Don't harm her!"

Sylvia was targeting a woman with a wooden sword. I remember her.

She used a powerful spell together with Buzucoily to drive away the demon king army that attacked the village...

Was she a lover of Buzucoily?

Buzucoily screamed at Sylvia, kneeling on the ground and crying for mercy as he watched Sylvia move closer to that woman.

Sylvia smiled happily when she heard Buzucoily's screams.

"You all killed my subordinates too, it is payback time! Don't worry, not just that woman, you, your family— everyone and this entire village will burn! ...Prepare yourself!"

Sylvia who was going insane from the torture of the Crimson Magic Clansmen was elated that she could have her revenge. She ignored Buzucoily's pleas and close in on that woman.

The edge of the wooden sword woman's lips raised in a smile, and she shouted at Buzucoily with an extremely sad expression:

"Run, even if it is just you... I will give everything I have to fight Sylvia, so you must use this chance to run!"

Hey, don't act like this!

Just how much tragedy would my action cause...!?

That woman stared with determined eyes at the advancing Sylvia.

"Sylvia, this is my trump card! Watch carefully! And..."

The woman said as she glanced at Buzucoily.

"Please, Buzucoily... Forget about me, you must live a happy life..."

"Soketto! Please Sylvia, stop! Soketto, I will never forget you...!"

Hey stop! Damn it, nooooooo!

"You are really resolute! Come, let me see your final trump card! No matter what spell it is, I will take—"

"Teleport!"

Before Sylvia even finish—

Soketto had disappeared.

Buzucoily who was showing a pained expression one second ago got up as with nothing happened, dust his knees and looked at Sylvia calmly.

At the climax of the drama, the target suddenly escaped.

Sylvia muttered in solitude.

"I, absolutely hate the Crimson Magic Clan."

... I could empathize with you on this.

Part 5

A Crimson Magic man stood before Sylvia.

He had a sad expression...

"Sylvia, it's so pitiful of you to end up like this... At least, let me use my ultimate ahhhhhh! That burns! It's rude to interrupt when saying is delivering a cool line, Sylvia!"

He didn't even finish before Sylvia spew out fire. The man jumped away in a panic.

"I don't want to drag this on anymore! If you don't want to fight, then scram!"

After being played by the Crimson Magic Clan repeatedly, Sylvia was losing her cool.

She was far away from the warehouse, a good chance.

I actually wanted to escape, but it couldn't be helped as I was the one who caused this.

"Alright, let's go! Hey Darkness, if things look dangerous for the Crimson Magic mob, I will be counting on you! No matter how strong they are, they are just mages after all, they can't escape if they exhaust their mana."

"I understand, leave it to me!"

Darkness nodded firmly. Megumin who was beside her—

"What, what should I do? I can't use teleport, so I can't even stall for time..."

She said with an uneasy face.

"You are the trump card during our critical moment. The mage killer only has high resistance to magic right? Advance magic might be ineffective, but no one had tried fighting it with explosion yet right? Maybe explosion would be able to deal some damage to it."

I used this excuse and lied to Megumin.

To be honest, I don't plan to let her use her spell.

I heard from Yunyun that things would be bad if the villagers knew that Megumin learned explosion.

Right now, the Crimson Magic Clan was engaging Sylvia...

"Ahahaha, what's the matter!? Come on, use your teleport magic!"

"Damn, the chanting is not...! Hey, things are getting dire! Sylvia's movement is becoming more agile!"

... After getting used to that body, Sylvia was no longer being led on by the Crimson Magic Clan, and started to actively attack.

"Kazuma, I will guard the entrance into the warehouse, so don't worry and search inside."

"You are still speaking nonsense, come with me!"

I dragged Aqua who was stubborn til the last moment, and used hide to advance through the crossfire of spells.

We finally made it to the warehouse, and entered through the hole made by Sylvia.

I looked back at Sylvia, and she was still chasing the Crimson Magic Clansmen around.

It was almost dawn, the other side of the hill was gradually getting brighter. However, the warehouse was still pitch dark.

Both Aqua and I could see the dark, and we jumped in to search for that weapon...

"... Hey, are we going to dig through that big pile over there?"

In the center of the underground warehouse, there was a mountain of magic items with unknown way of using it.

The weapon was probably here, but how do we determine which ones were weapons...

"Hey Kazuma, look, look!"

"I was wondering what I should do when Aqua picked something up excitedly and showed it off to me.

This is...

"Isn't that a Game Girl! Why is such an ancient game console doing in a place like this!"

This portable game console was popular before I was born.

Aqua placed the game console on the ground and started going through the mountain of magic items.

"Since there is a game console, there must be game cartridges. Hey, if you find Tetris, give it to me okay? I will lend it to Kazuma to play too!"

"Did I say that I am here to find games!? What I want is weapons! Where is that weapon like thing! ...By the way, what is with this? These are all things from earth..."

The mountain of magic item was actually game consoles that were sold on earth.

It was hard for a gamer like me to ignore, but I had a job to do.

And these things looked really pirated.

As if an amateur forcefully crafted the shape of a game console out...

At this moment, Aqua found something in a corner of the room and waved to me.

"Hey Kazuma, I found something."

Aqua said as she showed me a notebook.

I came to her side and peeked at the contents of the notebook.

It was in the so called ancient language according to the Crimson Magic Clan.

... That's right, it was written in Japanese.

Aqua started reading out the contents of the notebook—

"— O Month X day. Oh no, the secret of the facility had been discovered, but fortunately, they don't seem to know what I was making. If they found out that I was using the national research funds to make games, I wonder how they would punish me..."

I see, it all made sense now.

This facility was built by a Japanese who was sent to this world before me.

That's why the passcode at the entrance was the Konami code.

If so, there might be some clue in this notebook.

"— O Month X Day. A high ranking guy entered my sanctuary and asked me the purpose of these game consoles. There is no way I can honestly tell him it is a toy. And so, I made a serious face and lied to him that these are weapons that might destroy the world. My female colleague turned on the power supply of the game console timidly, and was startled by the sound of the console starting up. She always acts so fierce, so why was she so afraid of a game console?"

...?

I have an uneasy feeling about this.

"— O Month X Day. They increased my research budget, and asked me to create a weapon to fight the demon king army. Sigh, even if you say that, it is hard to do it. Didn't I already create all sorts of things with the cheat powers I got after coming to this world? My contribution to the nation was already tremendous. I won't be able to take it if you keep pushing me like that. I tried telling them with a serious face 'War begets nothing...', but my female colleague slapped my head hard, and said that I only got this job because the demon king exist. That is true, but a weapon to fight against the demon king... What should I make?"

Definitely uneasy.

I felt that I had heard this happy go lucky tone somewhere before...

Aqua continued reading.

"— O Month X Day. I want to make a giant robot. Something that can transform and combine. After I submit my proposal, they thought I was making fun of them. I was lectured. But I was actually serious. Out of spite, I said that we just need to build a huge weapon with super powerful magic resistance. Unexpectedly, that proposal was approved. What the hell, is that really fine? Even if you ask me to draw a design, what should I use as reference... Oh? There's a stray dog right there. You then. I will name the dog-form weapon 'mage killer'."

... Dog-form weapon?

"— O Month X Day. After I submit the design plans, they praised it and said 'I see, a snake huh, much better than something with legs. A great idea.' Eh, I actually drew a dog. I know my drawing is poor, but please look closer, this is a sausage dog... On closer inspection, I really drew a snake!"

.

"— O Month X Day. Experimentation began. Hmm, it is moving. Although it is moving, that thing doesn't have spare batteries. We tried bringing it to attack the demons, and found it out of battery in no time. But those fellows were scared out of their wits. Using this chance, I said 'this weapon is still early for humanity' and sealed it here. It can't move since it doesn't have batteries, but it could be used as material to create chimera as a living weapon. It won't need batteries that way, and is really cool."

Ah, I got it.

The owner of this notebook was probably the guy who created that thing.

"— O Month X Day. The new anti demon king weapon was created. Even though I said that, they were actually modified humans. We tried recruiting volunteers who were willing to undergo modification surgery, and we gathered so many that we had to choose the volunteers by drawing lots. Does this bunch really understand what modified humans are? After explaining to them that this surgery was a simple experiment to raise their suitability of being a mage to the limit, the volunteers even made strange request like 'I want a pair of red eyes', 'I want a unique call sign'. Is everyone in this nation idiots?"

Or rather, I will find it troubling if there were multiple people who could write such nonsensical notebooks.

"— O Month X Day. The modification surgery is finished. Those bunch even said something stupid like 'Master, please bestow us with a new name'. What Master, just how far are you guys going with this? It was troublesome, so I picked a name at random. They seemed so happy, are their aesthetic sense fine? However, these bunch are strong, super strong. The high ranking people gave me plenty of praises, and wanted to give me an important post. From tomorrow onwards, I will be the director of the research and development laboratory. To be honest, I don't want the status and would rather have more benefits. Sigh, it's a rare chance so I will give those fellows a clan name. Since their eyes are so red, I will call them the 'Crimson Magic Race'. My female colleague retorted that the name was too casual and rolled her eyes. Damn it, that bitch."

"Hey!"

I couldn't help shouting. Aqua stopped reading out loud and turned to look at me.

"Ah, sorry, please continue."

The Crimson Magic Clan were modified humans?

Such a heavy fact was mentioned so suddenly...

"— O Month X Day. The Crimson Magic bunch kept yapping to me about creating a nemesis that could fight against them— some kind of 'mage killer' weapon. Sigh, didn't I already tell them that thing can't move? Also, that wasn't made to be your nemesis, its batteries are flat... No matter how I explained, they just won't listen. They are already so old, and yet they are still in their rebellious stage. I couldn't stand them anymore, so I sloppily made a... I was thinking of making it sloppily, but somehow, I created something powerful. This thing is probably the real weapon that might destroy the world. Its appearance was just like a railgun, although its operation principle had nothing to do with electromagnetic acceleration. I couldn't think of a good name, so for convenience sake, I will name it 'railgun (fake)'."

... It wasn't heavy after all.

"— O Month X Day. The railgun (fake) was amazing, too amazing. So amazing that it scared me. It was meant to be a light weapon that compresses mana and shoot it out, but after those bunch tested one shot with it, the power even surprised me. What the hell, this is scary. That might be so, but it won't last long. It was crafted from random parts, so it will break after a few shots. It would be terrible if someone uses it for evil, so let's seal it here... By the way, this thing is rather long, just the right length for a laundry pole... Oh no, this is bad, the high authorities seemed to be encouraged by the success of the Crimson Magic Clan project and wants to invest a large amount of money to create a super sized mobile weapon. You think it is so easy to build such a thing!? Did water got inside your brain? Never mind, it's not my problem anyway."

... I was very certain.

The owner of this notebook was—

"The notebook ends here... Hey, I think I have seen this handwriting somewhere before."

It was the scientist who built the mobile fortress Destroyer and was turned into a pile of bones inside.

From the content of the notebook, his next work would be the mobile fortress.

"By the way, didn't you read a notebook in the mobile fortress too? Is the handwriting the same as this one?"

Aqua clapped her hands as if she just realized something.

This fellow, did she had some useless skill like handwriting forensics?

... No, hold on a minute.

"Hey, that notebook inside the mobile fortress, was it in Japanese too?"

"That's right."

"Right your head! Why didn't you tell me something so important!?"

"But, but you didn't ask!"

Aqua's words made me hold my head in pain.

"Damn it, so that's how it is! The one who created this series of mess, was another cheater you sent to this world! Mobile fortress, mage killer, all this is the work of this moron ahhhh! Hey you! Don't keep sending people to this world so irresponsibly!... Ah! Wait!"

I shouted and stopped. Aqua tilted her head puzzledly.

"...Eh, I didn't notice this issue but— Just how old are you? Are you already a goddess before the mobile fortress was built?"

Pomf— Aqua's notebook dropped onto the ground.

"... Hey, Kazuma, how could you ask a goddess her age? You will receive divine retribution alright? ...Let me make this clear, time flows very slowly in the room you and I first met. Which means my age is different from your understanding of age. If you get it, don't ask this question again. You will really receive divine retribution if you don't, Satou Kazuma-san."

Aqua said sternly. I groaned in a soft voice.

"Tch, grandma..."

"What did you say! Are you kidding me who is a grandma didn't I tell you that time passes slowly in that place so change the way you address me I have just lived a bit longer than you ahhhh!"

— In front of me were things that give me, a gamer, the urge to bring them all back. However, now was not the time for that.

"Damn it, where is the railgun!? Since it is as long as a laundry pole, I should be able to find it immediately—!"

I searched through the mountain of home appliances for the railgun (fake).

"Hey Kazuma, the time flow in Japan, heaven and this world are all different. For example, one month in Japan is just an hour in heaven, but is several months in this world. And so, my age... Hey, are you listening?"

Aqua had been explaining since just now.

"That's not important! We need to find the railgun! Railgun! Help me find it! It's something as long as a laundry pole..."

... As long as a laundry pole?

Gun?

Wait, didn't I see something similar somewhere in the village a couple of days ago?

That's right it's at the tailor shop of that guy named Chekera—!

"Hey Aqua! I understand, that weapon is at...!"

I shouted and turned back.

Ding ding!

"Ha, this still works, I tried using magic to substitute batteries, and it really works. How many game cartridge works with this? I will bring as many back as I can..."

I picked up the game console wordlessly and pulled my arm back hard...

"Get lost ahhhh!"

"Waahhhh! My Game Girl!"

Part 6

In the village that was blazing in fire, I ran with all my might.

... I could hear Aqua's noisy voice in my ears.

"Give it back! Give my Game Girl back! You can't find another one in this world! Compensate me! When we go back to Axel, compensate me with all the bounty you have! Judging by its rarity, three hundred million is cheap for you!"

"Are you done yet!? Now is not the time for this!! And that thing is not yours anyway! You are so much older than me, so why do you keep saying such childish things!?"

"You have done it now, I already said that goddesses are forever young! I will make you regret aggravating the goddess of water! I will curse you, your toilet won't flush and your warm bath water will turn cold!"

As I kept Aqua who was shouting strange curses at bay, we finally reached the entrance to the tailor shop.

In the courtyard, the silver rifle was placed on the laundry rack, glimmering metallically.

I felt murderous intent for the person who created the mobile fortress, mage killer and this thing.

And what is such a dangerous thing doing here, at least keep it properly!

And the villagers got guts too, I really want to lecture them for an entire day for using such a dangerous item as a laundry pole.

This thing was longer than three meters.

I wanted to pick it up, but I couldn't do it alone, so I got Aqua to help me.

There was something really heavy at the back of the gun, it was probably some mechanism that absorbed mana.

He came up with the name railgun casually, but this thing really felt like some futuristic weapon.

"Alright, now to bring this thing to the Crimson Magic Clan... Hmm?"

Something was off and my heart started pounding.

All of a sudden, the sound of explosions disappeared.

I surveyed the surrounding bafflingly.

No matter where I was in the village, I would be able to spot Sylvia's colossal body.

In the distance, Sylvia stood unmoving.

Part 7

I sneakily carried the railgun to somewhere near Sylvia...

And saw her staring at a spot motionlessly.

Before her gaze was—

"Isn't that Yunyun!? What is she doing there...!"

Watching closely, I could see Yunyun standing on a boulder and facing Sylvia.

Seeing that she was alone, I understood immediately.

The other Crimson Magic Clansmen had exhausted their mana.

However, this was not the only reason why the Crimson Magic Clansmen were staring at her.

"Yunyun...!"

"Yunyun she...!"

"The daughter of the village chief Yunyun she...!"

As if they were watching a hero they adored, the Crimson Magic Clansmen were admiring Yunyun with sparkling eyes.

At this moment, a Crimson Magic Clansman said:

"Is the sun rising from the west? That weirdo Yunyun who don't even dare introduce herself is..."

I gulped and watch the situation with Aqua quietly.

Sylvia had a haughty smile as she drew nearer.

She must have had enough of the taunts by the Crimson Magic Clansmen, so why was she taking the bait again?

My doubts were dismissed by Sylvia's words and the thing Yunyun was showing Sylvia.

"... So it's true that your adventurers card don't have the teleport spell... Is it a good idea to tell me voluntarily that you can't use teleport to escape?"

I didn't hear the entire conversation, but I could guess the gist of it.

Sylvia must be fed up after being toyed by the Crimson Magic Clansmen who teleport away just before her attacks could land.

All of a sudden, Yunyun offered the information that she couldn't use teleport magic voluntarily.

And Yunyun was standing on a tall cliff, with nowhere to run.

If she jump down or dash towards her companions in the distance, Sylvia could very likely intercept her.

Even if she wanted to attract Sylvia's attention, there was no need to go that far...

I wanted to shout at Yunyun when I felt my shirt being tugged.

I turned back and found Megumin who was holding Komekko's hand and a depressed Darkness behind me. When did they come over...

"Kazuma, did you find the weapon? We noticed that Komekko wasn't at the shelter, so Yunyun volunteered to attract Sylvia's attention. We used this chance to rescue her from the house..."

Komekko looked sleepy and unsteady on her feet.

Despite the commotion outside, she was still sleeping soundly at home.

This kid will definitely be a great person in the future.

"It's great that all of you are safe. I also found the weapon. By the way, what's with Darkness? Did something happen?"

"I tried to lure Sylvia away... It was working well at first, but in the end she said 'I can't be bothered to fight a woman with weak attack and tough defence'..."

Aqua patted the head of the depressed Darkness gently.

After being found out that she was only good at defence, the other party couldn't be bothered with her.

But instead of this...

"I understand, it couldn't be helped. But right now, let's find a way to rescue Yunyun..."

"No, we will only get in the way if we go now! She must have planned something! It's fine, from the way the grass around the boulder was trampled, someone is already sneaking there to save her, let's just watch from here!"

Megumin said excitedly, as if she was looking forward to something.

Someone was rescuing her?

But I don't see anyone.

Under the gaze of everyone in the village, Megumin raised one leg and balanced herself on the tall and narrow boulder, striking the pose of a crane.

"I am Yunyun... An arch wizard... User of advance magic..."

At this moment, she glanced at Megumin who was standing beside me.

"The number one mage in the Crimson Magic Clan, the one who will become the village chief!"

"Aahhhh!?"

Megumin shouted in surprised when she heard Yunyun's announcement.

Seemed like she was unhappy about Yunyun claiming to be the number one in the Crimson Magic Clan.

With the entire Crimson Magic Clansmen watching her—

"Demon king army boss Sylvia! As the daughter of the Crimson Magic chieftain...! I will show you the taboo spell that is passed on through the generations of the chieftains!"

With one hand held into the sky, Yunyun chanted.

Those should be the words to invoke lightning type magic.

A flash of blue lightning streaked across the bright morning sky and thunder resounded from behind Yunyun.

Just like the special effects of a super hero making her appearance.

The Crimson Magic Clansmen all cried passionate tears after seeing Yunyun strike her pose.

Huh?

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"... Ugh.....!"
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Sobbing came from my side. Turning my head, I saw that even Megumin was crying.

... Eh?

Before I understood what happened, the Crimson Magic Clansmen had erupted.

"Yunyun! Yunyun she! Yunyun she has finally awakened!"

"The daughter of the village chief Yunyun, has finally broken out of her cocoon!"

"Too cool! Yunyun is too cool!"

"Her powers within her have finally awakened!"

"That's my student! I taught and trained her with so much care!! Well done Yunyun, you have used the knowledge I taught you well...!"

It seemed that for the Crimson Magic Clan, her appearance just now was too cool for school.

This way, Yunyun who was always alone will finally become a part of the village.

At the same time, this was the moment a perfectly normal girl had fallen.

She must have made that embarrassing speech because of her drive to save others.

However, we need to keep a close eye on her so she won't try to kill herself after recalling this moment a few days from now.

Yunyun who looked as if she had burned all that she had faced Sylvia motionlessly.

Yunyun glanced at an empty space besides her.

"What is the matter? Little girl who can't use teleport. Little girl, aren't you a typical Crimson Magic Clansman who merely put up a facade by saying secret technique, certain kill and trump cards? If not, why don't you show me your so called taboo spell?"

Sylvia taunted Yunyun, but Yunyun remained still.

Sylvia then approached Yunyun slowly.

Even so, Yunyun was still unmoved.

Finally, Sylvia lowered her posture like a spring storing energy, squirming her lower snake like body like a drawn bow and prepared to launch herself at Yunyun.

Yunyun suddenly leapt off the boulder and ran.

Sylvia who had enough of being toyed by the Crimson Magic Clan said with bloodshot eyes:

"I won't let you escape, I won't let you escape, I won't let you escape, I won't...!?"

She chased Yunyun manically and spring onto the boulder. At this instant, she suddenly stopped her pursuit.

As if she had discovered something in the direction Yunyun was running to.

A man and a woman appeared out of thin air before Yunyun.

It was Buzucoily and Soketto.

One of them was using refraction spell to hide and sneak here, and dismissed the spell at this point.



I shook the railgun in a panic, but it remained still.

"Sacred Exorcism! Sacred Exorcism!"

While I was checking the weapon, Aqua casted several spells, she was probably amused by how her magic was absorbed.

Hmm, it was used as a laundry pole all these years, it might have broken down.

"Here here, let me try. You can fix machines by doing this!"

Darkness said as she knocked the railgun hard.

Was she really an aristocratic lady who received education as a noble?

"Hey Darkness, knock somewhere higher... yes, right there. Maybe the mana is stuck there."

"By the way, that's the so called weapon? It looked like laundry pole Chekera treats like a family heirloom... Maybe some dirt is stuck inside? Let's clean it with something like a stick."

While Darkness kept smacking the railgun, Megumin got up to search for a stick.

"Hey... Hey, hey...!"

Aqua said as she tugged on my sleeve while pointing to the distance.

"What!? Try casting your spell again! Maybe the spell just now is not compatible with the railgun, try another spell...!"

I said as I looked in the direction she was pointing.

Sylvia was looking this way with bloodshot eyes.

"Ara ara, what are you all doing there!? Hmm, what's that? You are holding something interesting!!"

Sylvia in the distance locked on to me as her target!

Part 8

"Wait a moment boy! Put that thing onto the ground slowly. It looks dangerous, that is what my intuition as a boss of the demon king army tells me!"

Sylvia squirmed her huge silvery body, ignoring the Crimson Magic Clansmen who were trying to delay her as she head straight for me.

Seemed like she knew very well the railgun I was holding was dangerous.

What should I do, could I throw this hot potato to someone else!?

"Wait! Really, Kazuma, your stats are so much lower than me, but why are you so fast at running away!? Did you learn the 'Flee' skill just for this!? Don't leave me behind!"

Aqua who was carrying Komekko was right behind me.

Komekko who was in Aqua's arms let Aqua do as she pleased, and was hugging Chomusuke that appeared out of nowhere.

This kid would definitely be a great person in the future.

"Stop wasting time and hurry! Quick! Hey, Darkness is falling behind! She is too heavy!

"Don't, don't say I am heavy! It is my armour that is heavy!"

Darkness who put on her armour when I wasn't around couldn't run fast because of her heavy armour.

Sylvia was gaining on her.

No choice, I had to abandon this heavy and stupid weapon...!

"You can't escape, Satou Kazuma! And listen up, Crimson Magic Clan! From this day forth, I will be your nemesis! No matter which corner of the earth you run to, I will seek find you all and wipe you out! I will crush your village no matter where you build it!"

In the village that was burning in a sea of flame, Sylvia announced loudly.

If I hand the railgun over to her, maybe she would let us off...

"Cowardly Crimson Magic Clansmen! All of you, and anyone who are related to you, will live a life of running til the end of your days!"

Despite Sylvia's taunts, the Crimson Magic Clan didn't move or react to her speech.

This bunch were really smart.

If possible, I really hope they could use their smarts properly.

"Onee-chan is not a coward!"

The shout echoed throughout the village, and was even louder than Sylvia's mocking.

With Chomusuke hugged tightly in her arms, Komekko was held in Aqua's arms when she shouted at Sylvia.

I was also curious about Chomusuke who was trembling and had teeth marks on its head, but—

"I can't pretend I didn't hear that. This is an affair between the Crimson Magic Clan and the demon king army. If Kazuma hand the weapon over, can you let the three of them go?"

The reckless mage from my team said defiantly.

I really don't get whether her boiling point was high or low.

She suddenly stopped herself from running and pointed her staff at Sylvia.

Sylvia also stopped and observed Megumin carefully. Finally, she smiled disdainfully.

"Ara, aren't you that little girl with a weak sense of presence? Speaking of which, I haven't seen you using magic yet. What kind of 'port' would your spell be?"

When she heard Sylvia's sarcastic words, Megumin said in a clear voice.

"I have yet introduce myself. My name is Megumin. Also, I am the real number one mage in the Crimson Magic Clan."

Seemed like she was really concerned about Yunyun claiming to be the 'number one mage of the Crimson Magic'.

Megumin didn't make a 'spectacular' entrance as usual, made uttered her name calmly.

Sylvia was very surprised by her self introduction.

"You are really a unique Crimson Magic Clansman... So you won't introduce yourself in a weird way? For the Crimson Magic Clan, isn't acting cool important to you?"

Sylvia appeared to be toying with Megumin. But Megumin didn't take the bait, not even batting her eyes once.

Suddenly.

"Onee-san is amazing! Her spell is so powerful she even destroyed an evil god!"

Komekko who was still in Aqua's arms shouted.

Megumin glanced at Komekko and smiled.

"I will leave Komekko to you. A new born calf doesn't fear the tiger, she will make a lot of enemies that way. I will destroy that thing with my certain kill spell."

Megumin said—

"Hey!"

Ignoring me, she removed the eyepatch covering one of her eyes.

Wouldn't it be bad if the village learnt that you know explosion!

Sylvia taunted after hearing what Megumin said.

"Ara ara, this again, certain kill magic! I am tired of hearing that!"

I could hear the Crimson Magic Clansmen whispering to each other.

"What's wrong with Hyoizaburoi's daughter? She has always been boisterous."

"She needs to build more tension if wants to use a certain kill spell!"

"The opening speech is too plain, too plain!"

The Crimson Magic Clansmen did not know that Megumin was serious about using certain kill magic.

I soothe her by saying she was the trump card for crucial moments, but I only did so to stopped this short fused mage from using spells inside the village.

Megumin was motivated, but if she used her spell, the village would find out her secret. Furthermore, it was doubtful whether the spell would really work. Using explosion so recklessly was a bad idea.

I couldn't guarantee that I could escape with Megumin who exhausted her mana in tow.

"... Hey, Megumin, I have something to tell you."

"Kazuma you—"

Before I could attempt to convince her, Megumin cut me off softly.

"I heard from Aqua earlier... Kazuma can read the ancient language in the underground warehouse right?"

My entire body quivered.

That girl, saying unnecessary things again!

However, if she was telling me this now meant...

Megumin's lips rose in a smile.

"... Sorry about clearing up after I made a mess. This time, I will clean up after Kazuma."

... The Crimson Magic Clansmen were smart.

I realized once again at this moment.

— Megumin's eyes glowed vermillion.

Intrigue, Sylvia taunted her:

"Little girl, are you done? You won't take the initiative anyway right? When I attack, you will teleport away at the right moment huh?"

However, the reckless mage in my tam just stood there quietly after hearing these taunts with her staff raised.

Not just Sylvia, all the Crimson Magic Clansmen were surprised.

... Oh no.

She was serious.

I knew very well the power of Megumin's explosion.

From the position of the Crimson Magic Clansmen watching the show, they were just outside the blast range.

But being outside the blast range only mean they won't die from the blast.

Since no one will die from the explosion, she could use her full power without hesitation.

"Hey you guys! Get away from Sylvia! As far as you can!"

For some reason, the Crimson Magic Clansmen who heard my roar started cheering—

"As expected of Megumin's comrade! He is an outsider, but he knows how to set the atmosphere!"

"He is pretty good... That anxious face is like he is being serious."

They kept talking about irresponsible things.

"Idiots! She's really gonna use a certain kill spell now! Run away! Run away quickly!"

Not just the Crimson Magic Clansmen, even Sylvia was laughing.

These, these guys were all thinking that I was kidding them...!

I gave up.

I stood together with Darkness and the others by Megumin's side.

"Megumin, don't worry, even if explosion don't work, I will stall that snake woman. Just imagining being constricted by that metallic body makes me, ahhh...!

"You are still so persistent in your fetish even under the threat of death!"

"In order to protect Komekko, I will just stand far away."

I grabbed Aqua who wanted to run away with a random reason, put the railgun at my feet and drew my katana.

Megumin watched our interaction with a faint smile.

After which, she confidently and calmly chanted her explosion spell.

The Crimson Magic Clansmen turned silent immediately when they heard this chant.

As expected of professional mages, they already understood—

—That Megumin wasn't bluffing.

The Crimson Magic Clansmen started escaping panically, while Sylvia turned her head and watch, not understanding what was happening yet.

During the one year we spent together, I listened to Megumin chant this spell every day.

After knowing her for so long, I could roughly gauge when her spell would be ready.

Sylvia finally noticed from the flow of mana in Megumin's body and the reaction of the Crimson Magic Clansmen that her 'certain kill spell' was not a joke.

Megumin had never acted seriously before, so she seemed scary when she does.

"Certain kill spell? ...I, I don't care if it is Implosion spell or Explosive spell, it won't harm me since I had merged with the mage killer, try it if you don't believe me! It is futile, time to die...!"

Sylvia shouted as she crossed her arms before her like Ultraman.

Megumin opened her crimson eyes wide and shouted her spell after channeling all her mana into it.

"Explosion—!!"

Overwhelming mana expanded and burst out from Megumin's staff!

"Huh!?"

Realizing what spell Megumin was using, Sylvia's expression turned to panic. Megumin's magic flew straight towards Sylvia—

... Midway there, it was sucked into the mana absorbent part of railgun I threw on the ground.

"Huh?" x4

It happened so suddenly, not just us, even Sylvia and the Crimson Magic Clansmen all groaned in surprise.

At the same time, Megumin fell like a piece of paper after exhausting her mana.

Sylvia was probably angry from the short instant when she felt afraid—

"Scaring me for nothing, you little brat! Watch me tear you into pieces!"

Sylvia whose voice turned masculine charged this way with a scary face!

An angry transvestite was scary! Really scary!

At least keep your feminine tone—!

"Damn it! Because of this junk, the situation became worse!"

"Ka, Kazuma, Sylvia is charging this way! I will leave Megumin who exhausted her mana to you! Don't worry about me, let me enjoy myself for a few hours before rescuing me..."

"Kazuma! As a goddess, protecting a frail life like Komekko is my obligation so I will make a move first!"

Why is every single one of you so useless!?

"Hey, that thing is beeping."

Besides me, Komekko who was in Agua's arms said suddenly.

I took a look—

On the side of the railgun placed on the ground, a 'FULL' gauge was blinking.

I remember now that the notebook said this was a machine that compresses mana and fire it out.

It wasn't broken, it's just that there wasn't enough mana for it to activate.

I lift the railgun in one fell swoop and aimed at the approaching Sylvia...!

"Demon King Army Boss Sylvia! Remember my name! Send my regards to the other bosses in hell! My name is Sa—"

Boom!

I wanted to squeeze the trigger after stating my name cooly, but Komekko who was in Aqua's arms pulled the trigger before I did.

With a powerful recoil, the front of the railgun emitted a bright beam of light.

This bright beam pierced through Sylvia's tail which she rose in the nick of time to protect herself. Not only that, the beam opened a large hole in Sylvia's chest.

The beam of light did not weaken at all, hitting the hill behind the Home of the Crimson Magic, right at a protruding corner...!

Amidst the blinding light and deafening boom, a corner of the hill disappeared.

The moment I threw the remnants of the railgun that deformed due to the intense heat, Sylvia crumpled to the ground with a loud bang.

The dying Sylvia collapsed onto the ground vomiting blood still unable to believe what just happened.

"...Hmm? Could, could it be, that I...?"

After witnessing this scene, we and the Crimson Magic Clansmen who fled further away stood stiff on the spot.

Komekko who was in Aqua's arm got onto the ground and struck a pose.

"I am Komekko! The number one demonic sister in the Crimson Magic! The one who is stronger than a demon king army boss!"

She stole my kill!

Part 9

The Crimson Magic Clansmen took care of Sylvia's corpse.

I heard that Sylvia whose body merged with the mage killer could be used to craft defensive gears with high magic resistance.

This must be what 'blessing in disguise' meant.

Also-

The Home of the Crimson Magic that was being ravaged destructively until dawn was now...

"What the hell."

Seeing the village being rebuilt with terrifying speed, I was dumbstruck.

The debris was blown away by a spell, the stones cut from boulders turned into golems, and walked to the construction site by themselves.

A six-armed demon that was probably summoned by magic was wielding a large construction tool in each hand.

"... Hey Megumin, what's with this? How come the reconstruction is proceeding so fast?"

I asked Megumin.

Once again, I learned how broken the Crimson Magic Clan was.

"What do you mean? I don't know how long reconstruction takes in other cities, but you shouldn't use them as a standard to compare."

"... Just tell me, how long does it take to return the village back to the way it was?"

"Three days?"

It would just take three days...?

The village ravaged by a demon king army could be rebuilt in just three days.

"... I saw a girl saying sadly 'the village... is burning...' or something like that, and felt really guilty about it."

"That is strange. If it is just a fire, it would be simple to rebuild, everyone in the village should know that... How does she look like?"

Her appearance?

I remember she had the same eyepatch as Megumin...

"... That's her."

I pointed at the eyepatch girl who just happened to be strolling before us.

"What? You have some business with me, outsider? Hee, Megumin, I was just looking for you."

"Hey Arue, long time no see."

Seemed like they were acquainted.

Eh, Arue?

"Megumin, can you take a look at this, I just finished the 'Legend of the Crimson Magic Hero' chapter two. The scene about the burning of the Home of the Crimson Magic is really descriptive, I am really confident about it"

The scene about the burning of the Home of the Crimson Magic...

Arue...?

Wasn't Arue that...!

That weirdo who sent that letter out of nowhere.

"Hoho, let me read your masterpiece..."

The one who forced me to come to this village!

"So it's you ahhhhh!!"

"Ahhhh!?"

I grabbed the stack of paper from Megumin and tore them in half.

"Ahhhh... My, my masterpiece... The crystallization of my effort after staying up all week..."

"This is the first time I see Arue who is usually cool and collected acting like this."

Arue hugged the torn pieces of papers and collapsed onto the ground. Megumin patted her shoulder.

"It's your fault...! All because of you! You know how much I was looking forward to it and how happy I was!? Do you know how depressed I became!? Stop toying with a man's heart!"

"Me, Megumin, what is with this rude man!? Doing something so mean to someone he first met! I was really scared!"

"You created a series of misunderstanding that almost scared me to death! You even said something like 'the village... is burning...'! And what was with your new work! While we were risking death in battle outside, you were snuggling at home and writing that!? You know how much trouble I went through because of the doodling you mailed to Yunyun!?"

"Doodling!?"

"Hey, both of you calm down, this is the first time both of you met, why are you two so... Hey! ...You two! If you keep on fighting, I will use my super high stats to taste some suffering!"

Part 10

After witnessing the abnormal reconstruction speed of the Home of the Crimson Magic, we spent our last night here.

"— Kazuma, what's with you? You were in a good mood when all of us were having dinner, but your face looks bad after going out for a while."

Megumin didn't know why I was sulking and asked.

"What's with me!? Your 'mixed hot spring' is that 'what'! Is that name a joke!? It's not mixed gender and it's not a hot spring, so why use such a name!"

After understanding why I was angry—

"Oh, so that's where you went. That is one of the attractions in this village, a place all visitors should visit."

"This village is too much! I can't even take a bath without being toyed with! Really, this is the worse vacation!"

Sylvia was defeated and her minions wiped out.

The reconstruction of the village was also progressing smoothly, the entire incident had concluded.

"I'm very satisfied with this vacation though."

Megumin who was sleeping beside me said.

I wanted to have a good rest on the last night in the Home of the Crimson Magic, but I never thought I would be forced to sleep with Megumin again.

Rather that been put to sleep by a slumber spell and pushed by madam, Megumin opted to sleep with me willingly.

Since she adopted such an attitude from the very start, I lost the drive to even sexually harass her.

Darkness objected as usual, and was put to sleep just like Hyoizaburo.

Right now, I was sharing a bedding with Megumin.

"... Really, I was targeted by orcs, then Sylvia these few days—people I rather not have anything to do with."

"What a coincidence, me too."

"I, I'm really sorry..."

Thinking back on my actions these past few days, I averted my eyes guiltily.

Megumin's mischievous laugh came from the side.

"If Kazuma feels guilty about, then... Right, tell me something fun. I want to hear about stories from the country Kazuma lived in."

Megumin said as she looked my way—

"— And so, I reacted on the spot and asked the girl next door to use the money to buy chocolate and send it to me by today. I even promised that she could keep the change. In the end, the plan proceeded smoothly, so my younger brother only got a chocolate from my mother, but I had my mother's as well as the one bought by that girl. This moment, the long competition between my brother and I was concluded, and I defended my pride as the elder brother."

Megumin who was listening to me seriously all this while said:

"So you hired a helper to win the battle. I'm relieved that Kazuma was like this in the past too... But that is such a strange custom, is it really that bad to not receive any chocolate on that day?"

Megumin asked about that annoying day curiously.

"Bad is not even close to describing it. If I can go back in time, I will kill the guy who invented such a damnable culture. That's how pitiful any man who doesn't receive any chocolate was. And overcoming that wasn't the end. We have to return the favour to the girls."

"... Return the favour? What's that?"

I explained this evil practice to her.

"If you receive chocolates from a girl, you will have to give something three times as expensive to the girl one month later as thanks. That's how evil it was. If you don't, you would be completely banned by the girls. You will be mocked if you don't get chocolate, and even if you do, you will still need to break the bank. This day is that sinful and dirty."

After listening to me, Megumin tilted her head curiously.

"Why didn't Kazuma receive any chocolate? Kazuma might lack some basic manners as a person, but from my observation after spending so much time with you, you still have some good points too. For example, you are very...? Gentle... Not. Down to earth...? Wrong too... Hmm? ...Hmm? Have your life in order? But you are in debt... Eh, how should I put this..."

"Put this your head! Work harder in stating my good points!"

Come on, I have plenty of good points right!?

"... Eh, you are not very honest about it, but you are always concerned about your comrades...? I don't hate this part about Kazuma."

Concerned about comrades?

That's the catchphrase of girls, the classic line to indicate there are no romantic feelings for someone, the same thing as 'you are a good person'.

I didn't really care about these, so I didn't feel resentful.

Because of my encounter with the orcs and Sylvia, I am so vulnerable that I would harbour positive feelings for any woman with normal looks.

And so, I wasn't dissatisfied by such praises that didn't sound like praises at all!

"If I go to the country Kazuma lives in... When it is Valentines, I will give Kazuma chocolates. You can show it off to your brother then."

This girl was cruel too, saying such things so nonchalantly.

"Didn't you hear what I said? That whatever-tines is a day when you give chocolates to someone you like. If you give chocolate recklessly just because you are a bit close to a boy, that boy will misunderstand immediately and end up miserable. Don't do that, if you do something like that in my country, you would be labeled an easy woman."

After hearing my reply—

"But I do like Kazuma?"

She said nonchalantly.

"What did you just say? Please repeat it exactly again."

My ears didn't have weird problems that filter out such key phrases.

Megumin poked her head out of the blanket and giggled mischievously.

"I don't dislike Kazuma."

"Hey, that's different from what you said just now, you think my memory is that poor?"

Megumin laughed again.

She then said in a calm tone.

"Kazuma, if..."

"What? What is it? I am all prepared and ready to go!"

Was she influenced by the atmosphere and will go with the mood and confess?

Is that it?

Sylvia was defeated. No one will get in our way tonight.

Megumin resolved herself—

"Kazuma if it was possible..."

What was it?

Say it!

Say it now!

As I waited full of expectations, Megumin asked quietly:

"— Do you want an excellent mage?"

Chapter 6 - I Want to be the Strongest Mage

The next morning.

Megumin and I were strolling around the Home of the Crimson Magic

We met Yunyun on the way, so all three of us stroll around together.

I thought Yunyun would be staying here a while, but it seemed that she would be returning to Axel immediately.

However, it was understandable why she wanted to return so anxiously.

After the battle with Sylvia, the Home of the Crimson Magic changed.

"Ah! It's 'the one with azure lightning on her back', Yunyun! Long time no see, I am going for breakfast, want to join me?"

A girl about Megumin and Yunyun's age said to Yunyun.

Yunyun shook her head with a blushed face.

The girl who chatted up Yunyun wasn't unhappy about Yunyun's reaction, said 'is that so, such a pity' and left with a smile and a wave.

"... How popular, 'the one with azure lightning on her back'. It's just a meal, why don't you just join her?"

"Don't say it! Stop using that name! Why, why did I do something so stupid...!"

Megumin words drove Yunyun to the verge of tears as she covered her red face with both hands.

After the battle, everyone's attitude towards Yunyun changed.

They always treated her as the strangest person in the Home of the Crimson Magic, and thought of her as a girl with weird taste. All of a sudden, she became the most popular person in the village.

A guy passing by said to Yunyun:

"Oh, it's 'crackling thunder' Yunyun! I am just going to eat..."

"Not going! I'm not going!!"

After Yunyun who was about to cry rejected him, the guy didn't really mind, said it's a pity and left with a wave.

This could be considered a new type of bullying.

"... How popular, 'crackling thunder'. Just let him treat you to breakfast."

"No! Please don't say it! Don't give me weird nicknames!"

Yunyun shook her head while covering her face.

Megumin suddenly used the tip of her staff to poke Yunyun's cheek.

"What are you saying, number one mage of the Crimson Magic Clan! You ignored me and used that name, and now you say you don't want one, how selfish! Come, show me that cool pose again!"

"Don't, don't say it! Megumin is still bothered by that!? I only borrowed it for a while!"

Yunyun rebuked Megumin who was poking her face with a staff.

I couldn't help chipping in:

"The two of you are so close."

When she heard that, Megumin just threw a glance at me--

Then she swung her staff around and looked unhappy.

"Let's go! The teleporter already registered the destination to Axel! We need to hurry up and get ready for the teleport!"

"Ahh, wait for me Megumin!"

I smiled as I watch Yunyun chasing Megumin in a panic and walked slowly behind them.

... This time, the two girls about Megumin's age appeared before us.

"Ah, Funifura, Dodonko."

They were acquaintances huh.

The two of them pointed at Megumin.

"It's been a while. Yunyun and useless mage! How have you been?"

"Ahhahaha! The number one genius of the Crimson Magic Clan became the number one useless mage! You are now the talk of the village!"

Megumin who was being teased pounced on the two of them without a word.

"Hey, your greetings are really special for meeting a classmate you haven't met for so long!"

"It's, it's just a joke! Sorry, I'm sorry! It's been so long, so why are you still so aggressive!?"

"Stop, what's with your grip power! What level are you now, it hurts, violence is prohibited!"

The two of them lift the white flag in no time after Megumin's attack.

... I don't know what their relationship with Megumin was, but they were bad at handling Megumin.

One of the girls then said to Yunyun:

"... Erm, you were very cool yesterday. Up til now, I have always thought of you as a weirdo... Many things happened too."

She averted her eyes in embarrassment after finishing.

"Yeah, I have changed my opinion of you too! Yunyun is so coo!"

The other person said...

"No," Yunyun covered her flushed face on the verge of tears. "Please don't say anymore."

"The two of you are a bit off in some ways, so we were worried about you."

"That's right, Megumin acts childishly sometimes and Yunyun looked like she would be targeted by bad boys easily. But we are relieved that the two of you are doing well."

I felt a sense of warmth in my heart after seeing their smiles.

This was great, even if Yunyun got left alone in Axel, her friends would be here for her.

At this moment, Yunyun smiled and said to me:

"Kazuma-san, allow me to introduce. This is Funifura and Dodonko. During my school days, they are my... fri-friends!"

After Yunyun made the introduction happily with a little bit of boastfulness, I bowed towards the two girls once again.

The two who were named as Yunyun friends returned the bow shyly.

"How to do you do, my name is Satou Kazuma. I am one of Yunyun's friends, and I have been in her care. Please take care of me too."

"Please, please take care of me too!" x2

Speaking of which, there were plenty of beautiful girls in the Home of the Crimson Magic.

And that made me a little nervous.

However, the two of them seemed a little tense too, or maybe it was just my imagination.

Megumin who was watching our conversation suddenly threw a bomb.

"Hey, I understand you don't have much chance to meet guys and is lonely, but please don't flirt with my man."

"!?" x3

When they heard that, all three girls except Megumin were shocked.

"Hey, hey, what did you say...!? So you were serious when you said you like me last night!?"

"!!" x3

This shocked the three of them even more.

Dodonko and Funifura were at a loss and asked in a fluster—

"Ma-ma-man!? That Megumin who didn't care about anything other than magic have a man!? Is that a lie? It is right? You like him as a boyfriend?"

"That-that's right, it must be. Megumin who isn't concerned about such thing, suddenly having a man... is impossible huh?" The two of them said. What. What is this? Yunyun asked in a panic: "Ka, Kazuma-san? Is this true? Me-Megumin made such a confession..." She asked softly. I asked Megumin with eye contact, 'would it be fine to tell the truth?' "Don't think too much about this-- Kazuma already met my parents and gifted them with snacks. We even bathed together before, and had been sharing in the same bed and blanket with our bodies rubbing against each other. That's how simple our relationship is." "!!" x3 The pale Funifura and Dodonko took a few unsteady steps back. Megumin wasn't lying though. The corner of her lips rose in a smirk as if she was showing off. "... Pfft." "!!" x2 She chuckled. "... Wah, waahhh! So, so what if you have a man ahhh!" "I, I am not envious! I am not envious ahhhh!" The two of them uttered such lines before running off. Next, Megumin said to Yunyun who was blushing and at a loss. "Yunyun, there is a place I want to go with Kazuma. Sorry, but can you help me to ask the teleporter to get ready?" "Huh!? That, that is... Erm, I can do that...! So you two are really...?" Yunyun timidly looked at Megumin and me. Megumin she— Used a tone like a highschool girl which she normally wouldn't use and said:

"Even if one of us found a boyfriend, we will still be friends forever!"

"Wah, waahhhh! You normally won't say I am a friend! I don't feel like I lost to Megumin at all!!" Following behind Funifura and Dodonko, Yunyun ran away too. -- Megumin brought me outside the Home of the Crimson Magic. We entered the forest and came to a quiet place with no one around. Only the chirping of the insects could be heard. At this moment, Megumin turned her head and looked at me. ... Hmm, what was this situation? Eh, what? A confession? No, she already did. Did she? No, was that really a confession yesterday? No no, she said just now that I was her man too! However, she probably just wanted to show off before her friends just now...! Don't be careless Satou Kazuma, if I say 'I like you too, please go out together with me!', her answer would definitely be 'I don't mean that kind of like' or something like that. In the end, do I really like Megumin? No, I will fall easily when a member of the opposite sex treats me gently. I didn't expect to be such an easy guy to score with! Such thoughts flashed across my mind and made me uneasy. Megumin stared at me and said: "Kazuma... I asked you yesterday, and I will ask you again. Kazuma, wants an excellent mage right?" ... What was this? She asked me the same last night too, so what was the meaning of this? I gave the same answer as before. "If you asked if I want one, then the answer is yes, of course." I answered matter of factly.

Was Megumin satisfied with this answer?

"Is that so... Hmm, I made up my mind."

She suddenly smiled.

... When facing a virgin boy who had never dated before, it was foul play to attack with such a smile.

In a quiet place with no one around, saying 'I made up my mind', and asking 'Do you want an excellent mage', wouldn't that make my heart skip a beat?

"I, plan to start learning advance magic."

Megumin's thinking was too extreme, she was asking too much to a virgin... What did she say?

"... Hey, what did you say?"

My voice turned shrill.

When I told her I would cut her meals from three to two if she wanted to cast explosion, she would choose to cast the spell without hesitation. What did such an explosion maniac said?

Megumin took out her adventurer card.

And showed it to me.

"I have been feeling troubled. Even before Yunyun said I am a useless mage. Maybe I wouldn't consider such things if I never met Kazuma, Aqua and Darkness, and keep on raising my explosion level. It was evident from meeting Funifura and Dodonko that everyone in the Home of the Crimson Magic must be utterly disappointed in me... I will not be a burden for Kazuma anymore. I will be of help to Kazuma and everyone... So, that's why, from this day forth, I will seal my explosion magic."

After finishing, she smiled at me again.

Wrong.

Wrong, wrong.

"Hey, wait a minute. It will be a big help if you can use advance magic. That might be so, but there is no need to seal away your explosion magic. We won't be doing quest every day, so you can cast your explosion spell everyday if you are free. Also, instead of using it every day, it can be a trump card during crucial moments...! And didn't you tell Yunyun earlier that you put all your skill points into increasing the power of explosion and raising the chanting speed?"

Megumin broke out in a laugh after hearing what I said.

"You remember it well. In order to learn this skill at any moment, I had been saving up my precious skill points... After chanting explosion and exhausting my mana, I won't be able to use other spells for the day. On the other hand, if I use advance magic, I won't be able to use explosion which requires all of my mana. When I learn advance magic, I need to keep on casting it to increase my proficiency, and I would need to keep on practicing it."

Megumin stared at the adventurer card in her hand.

... I suddenly remembered.

When I left Axel, Vanir said to me:

"At the destination of thy journey, there will be a time when thy comrade share their doubts and approach thee for advice. That comrade will change her path according to thy words. Thou should consider it carefully and give an advice thy would not regret."

I see, so he was referring to this.

Damn it, that cheating devil, he already foresaw this far?

After I go back, I will rub holy water on the door handles of that shop.

But I could only imagine a future where Wiz scalded her hands badly.

As if she was holding over a treasure full of precious memories, Megumin stared longingly at the card.

She then closed her eyes quietly.

Took a deep breath, and opened them again.

She then turned her backs towards me, and offered her card as if she was enduring something.

Megumin's shoulder was trembling slightly.

"Sorry Kazuma. Can I ask you to do something mean?"

"... You can't press the button to learn advance magic yourself, so you want me to help you press it, right?"

Megumin nodded her head.

What an idiot...

"How about thinking over it again? We already got a huge sum of money in the bank right? We don't need to do dangerous quests anymore. We can live a carefree life in that mansion, you can wipe out some small fries with explosion every now and then, and all of us could live happily ever after."

Megumin blurt out a laugh.

"When I said I don't plan to learn intermediate magic last time, Kazuma kept nagging me about it."

Her shoulders were quivering as if she heard some joke, but still pushed the card in front of me insistently.

I took the card silently.

"... You won't regret this?"

I said to Megumin's back.

"I won't. I don't want to get in the way anymore. If I am a normal Crimson Magic Clansman, Kazuma would definitely not be chased by orcs and forced into tears, Sylvia wouldn't be able to kidnap Kazuma too... I am the number one mage in the Crimson Magic Clan, the one who wields the power of advance magic! ...I will say that from now on. I have more mana than Yunyun, if I can use advance magic, I will definitely be the strongest mage in the Crimson Magic Clan. I won't let Yunyun take my number one spot."

Megumin said determinedly.

With a forced smile on her face.

... What an idiot.

She liked explosion so much, and gave her everything to explosion magic.

I operated Megumin's card in silence.

But to think it was possible to use other people's card.

If only I knew that earlier.

For example, when I first met with them, I would be able to steal Darkness and Megumin's card, and allocate the skill points on their cards against their wills.

After I was done, I handed the card over to Megumin.

Without taking another look at the card, she casually took the card and stuffed it into her chest.

She then turned around.

"It is about time to go back to the others! Together with Aqua and Darkness, let's go back to Axel. Oh right, the bounty for Sylvia is really high right?"

"Hmm, is that so!? Let's go back and have a party then."

When Megumin was about to return to the Home of the Crimson Magic, I stopped her.

"Oh, that's right. Megumin, try casting an explosion spell."

I asked her suddenly.

When Megumin heard me said that,

"... You are really... I already steeled myself, and not five minutes later, you want me to cast explosion, just what are you thinking?"

She didn't know what else to say.

"From where I was from, there is a saying 'I will work hard tomorrow.' Also, I have yet to see a one hundred points explosion from you. The explosion that defeated Sylvia borrowed the power of the weapon too. Are you fine with your final explosion being so lackluster?"

"... You really don't hold back do you? Alright, this will be my final explosion spell. I will show you a powerful shot!"

After finishing, Megumin aimed at a boulder some distance from us with exaggerated movement.

"... Wait, Me, Megumin. Hold on. Don't aim so close, set your target further away. You will be giving your all for this ultimate blow right? Then aim at that boulder over there."

I pointed at a giant boulder beyond the forest, situated right in the middle of a plain.

Megumin tilted her head when she heard my sudden request.

"I don't mind, but that is barely within my range though... Well then, let me show you, my final explosion with my full power!"

The elation on her face right now came from the bottom of her heart, not that fake smile she was forcing earlier.

The giggly Megumin was enjoying herself as she began chanting her explosion spell...!

"Explosion--!!"

On the tip of her raised staff, an intense light was shining, the beam shot straight at the boulder.

Without question, it was the best explosion I have seen so far.

Along with the deafening roar, a wind blast that was bigger than I imagined blew towards me.

If she unleashed this on Sylvia, she might just defeat her without relying on that weapon. That was how powerful it was.

After witnessing the power of the spell she casted, Megumin was shocked, and took out her card in a hurry.

After checking the content, she stared intensely at me, unable to suppress the joy in her heart as she showed a complicated expression that was a combination of resignation and happiness.

A moment later, she flicked her cape and had a smile freed of doubts as she introduced herself.

"I am Megumin! Number one mage in Axel, an arch wizard that uses explosion magic, the one who will reach the peak of explosions spells!"

The usual Megumin was before me.

I went against Megumin's will and put all of her skill points into increasing the power of her explosion.

She asked if I would want an excellent mage.

But there wasn't any mage more excellent than our Megumin.

After all, she just need one explosion spell to make a fool of the bosses of the demon king army and defeat them.

If there were any mages that had better results than her, I would like to meet them.

And what I wanted the most wasn't an excellent mage, but...

The arrogant Megumin puffed her petite chest out and asked:

"How many points was that explosion?"

And of course, it is...

"One hundred and twenty points."

Megumin smiled brilliantly when she heard these words--



Epilogue

"My own home is the best after all! I don't want to go on anymore trips for now! And something is wrong if a hikikomori like me keep traveling around!"

Once I return to my home that I had been away from for so long, I felt at ease from the comfort of this place.

I had been running about recently, but it was strange for a hikikomori person like me to be so earnest.

I will be getting a huge sum of money from the business deal with Vanir soon anyway.

I probably won't need to travel any time soon.

No, I might as well stay inside the mansion all day for a while.

Luckily, the Crimson Magic Clan was fine with us taking the entire bounty for defeating Sylvia.

And so, I suddenly got a large amount of cash.

I decided. I won't find any more trouble.

Even if someone came crying to me, I will still chase them away.

"Really, Kazuma, showing your bum nature immediately. But for some reason, seeing you like makes me feel at ease. It's like I don't need to work hard anymore."

"Aqua, you are just relieved after seeing your own kind! Don't be depraved and be like that guy, he is a negative example!"

Darkness said something rude after listening to Aqua.

"Don't say that. In the end, Kazuma performed quite admirably this time. He deciphered the ancient language and found out how to use the weapon. He even defeated Sylvia."

Megumin seemed to have forgotten her medicines and was speaking up for me.

"We only defeated Sylvia because of Megumin's power. I merely directed it."

"No no, if not for the weapon that convert magic into pure destructive power, I wouldn't be of much use. This is all thanks to Kazuma who brought the weapon there."

Megumin and I pushed the credit to each other.

"... Hey Aqua, what is with the two of them? I think something is different about them after the trip... Could, could it be, when they were sleeping in the same bed, they...!?"

"Hey, don't talk nonsense, I didn't do anything wrong! Hey Megumin, we didn't... Hey, deny it properly! They will become suspicious!"

Even though Darkness gave us suspicious looks, Megumin still didn't deny anything, and started walking towards Aqua.

Seemed like she was very concerned about the thing in Aqua's hand.

By the way, Aqua would normally be the first to say something, so it was a rare sight for her to be quiet.

What had she been doing on the sofa...?

Ding ding.

.

"When did you bring the game console back!? Hey, let me play too, this is the most suitable item for a gamer like me!"

"If you want to borrow it, you need to pay the price! Specifically speaking, clean the bathroom for me tomorrow!"

As I was fighting for the game girl Aqua brought back.

There was a knock on the door and the voice of a man came from behind it.

"Excuse me, is anybody there?"

Aqua and I looked together and nodded at the same time...

We sneaked to the door.

"Is someone there... Oh, greetings sir. Are you the owner of this mansion... what, what are you doing sir! Stop...!?"

"I don't know where you came from, but it is probably some troublesome problems! Go back, you harbinger!"

"Kazuma, use drain touch! Suck his life force and knock him out! Then throw him outside and pretend he never came here!!"

"What are the both of you doing all of a sudden!? Hey, Kazuma! Stop it!"

"I can empathize with you on why you don't want to get involved with any trouble, but you can't assault someone you just met!"

Darkness and Megumin subdued me after I pounced on the guest, and my hands were bonded.

The visitor was a man dressed like a butler, about fifty years of age.

He panted hard as he watched Aqua and me cautiously.

After Darkness got a good look of that butler dressed man, she suddenly said loudly:

"What, aren't you Hagen? Didn't I tell you to not come to this mansion unless there is an emergency? I am not worried about you giving me trouble, rather, like just now-- I was afraid that you will suffer inhumane treatment..."

Seemed like this butler was an employee of the Dustiness house.

And what do you mean they would suffer inhumane treatment if they visit?

... Although he did suffer inhumane treatment.

That butler coughed dryly and regained his composure.

"Young lady, naturally, I am here for a matter of grave importance. Actually..."

Enough, I don't want to be involved in more troubles!

I covered my ears to ignore the butler's words, but Darkness grabbed my wrist and pulled them away from my ears, forcing me to listen together with her.

"No, don't wanna! This has nothing to do with me, so don't make me listen, don't involve me! I don't want to go anywhere or go near danger! I want to stay safely at home!"

"I am concerned about the hygiene of the toilet after the trip, I will go clean it!"

Darkness grabbed me who was resisting intensely, captured Aqua who was attempting to slip away and asked the butler.

"What is the matter? Did something happen at home?"

In response to Darkness' question--

"It's really terrible young lady! If this goes on, your only good point will disappear!"

The butler said something we couldn't ignore.

"Hey wait, what happened to Darkness' only good point!? Is it sagging!? Is her slutty body going to sag!? I have always found it strange, her body is way too sexy! She must have used her money and authority to get magic items that makes her boobs big!"

"What are you talking about!? My strong point would be defence... That's not it! Hagen, you are too mean, I should have more strong points...! Say it, Megumin, Aqua, I should have other strong points too right!?"

Darkness was on the verge of tears.

"Instead of that, does the breast enlargement magic item exist? If there is, please..."

"Kazuma and the old man are too mean! Our Darkness has many good points! She is soft hearted, and agrees to anything if you plead to her in tears. She believes everything that you teach her, so it doesn't feel boring hurts hurts! Stop it Darkness, my head is going to explode! I am praising you, so what are you doing!?"

Darkness grabbed the temples of Aqua, making her scream. The butler said:

"That's wrong! If this goes on, the old master might be stripped of his nobility and the young lady will become a peasant! The unworldly young lady would only be able to make a living by selling her slutty body-Young lady! Please don't do that to my old bones, I will die!"

While Darkness was strangling the butler in tears, a letter dropped to her feet.

"...? What is this?"

"It's a letter from the royal palace. Young lady, after you read it, you will understand the crisis impending on house Dustiness. And this is related to Satou-san over there..."

The butler glanced at me.

Stop, don't drag me into this!

After opening the letter, Darkness' face become more and more pale before finally kneeling onto the ground.

The content seemed really serious.

"... What is it about?"

I asked timidly, and Darkness snapped back to her senses.

"No-no-nothing at all! This has nothing to do with Kazuma! Please don't mind it!"

Darkness suddenly used weird honorifics in her words, making me feel that something was off. And so, I reached my hand out.

"Show me the letter."

"No, I refuse. No, I apologize for dragging you in every time. Hey, that's what you said right? You don't want to be involved in troublesome matters anymore! And so, this matter--"

"Steal!"

"Ah!"

After I stole the letter, I read it quickly along with Aqua and Megumin who were peaking from behind. It wrote...

"To the one who defeated many demon king army bosses, a great adventurer who made exemplary contribution to the nation, Sir Satou Kazuma. I have heard about your marvelous accomplishment, and hope to meet with you face to face. May I enjoy a meal together with you?"

At the end of the letter were the emblem of the kingdom and the name of the author.

The name was Iris.

Even though I was unfamiliar with this world, I still knew that she was the first princess of this country.

A royal princess.

"Kazuma, let's reject this invitation! If anything happens to the first princess Iris, we will lose our head! It will be a big problem if one of us did anything rude! You don't know the ceremony and etiquette right? You hate such restrictive events right? Am I right? Let's reject it! Yes, that's right, the Dustiness house will booked a good restaurant and we will only invite close friends to hold a party that commemorates your achievements! So...!"

I exchanged looks with Aqua and Megumin, and we all nodded our head together.

"Our time has finally come!"

Darkness shook her head with tears in her eyes, grabbing onto my waist and refusing to let go.

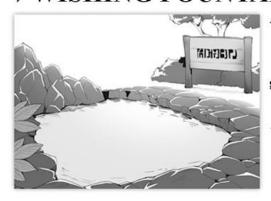
Exclusive Report on the village of the Crimson Magic Race!!

"HOME OF THE CRIMSON MAGIC" ETERNAL GUIDE

Author & Photogroaphy / Arue

Scenic Attraction Catalogue Within the Home of the Crimson Magic that is feared even by the Demon King, there are many beautiful sights. Many powerful monsters paved the road to the village, so be careful.

WISHING FOUNTAIN



After throwing in an axe, you can summon the goddess of gold and silver. If you throw coins in, your wish will come true. A sacred fountain

▶ SWORD IN THE STONE



Rumoured to grant the one who pulls it out immense power, a legendary sword that is stuck in a boulder.

PUBLIC BATH MIXED HOTSPRING



The bath owner fills the tubs with 'Create Water' and heats it up with 'Fireball'.

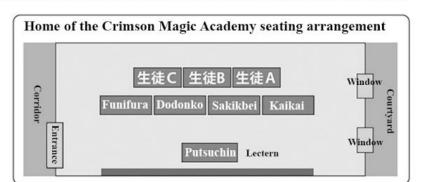
▶ CAFE 『DEADLY POISON』



The shop sounds dangerous but the food is delicious. Aside from this, there are many other shops with repeat customers such as the weapon shop 'Goblin Killer'.

ATTENTION HERE!

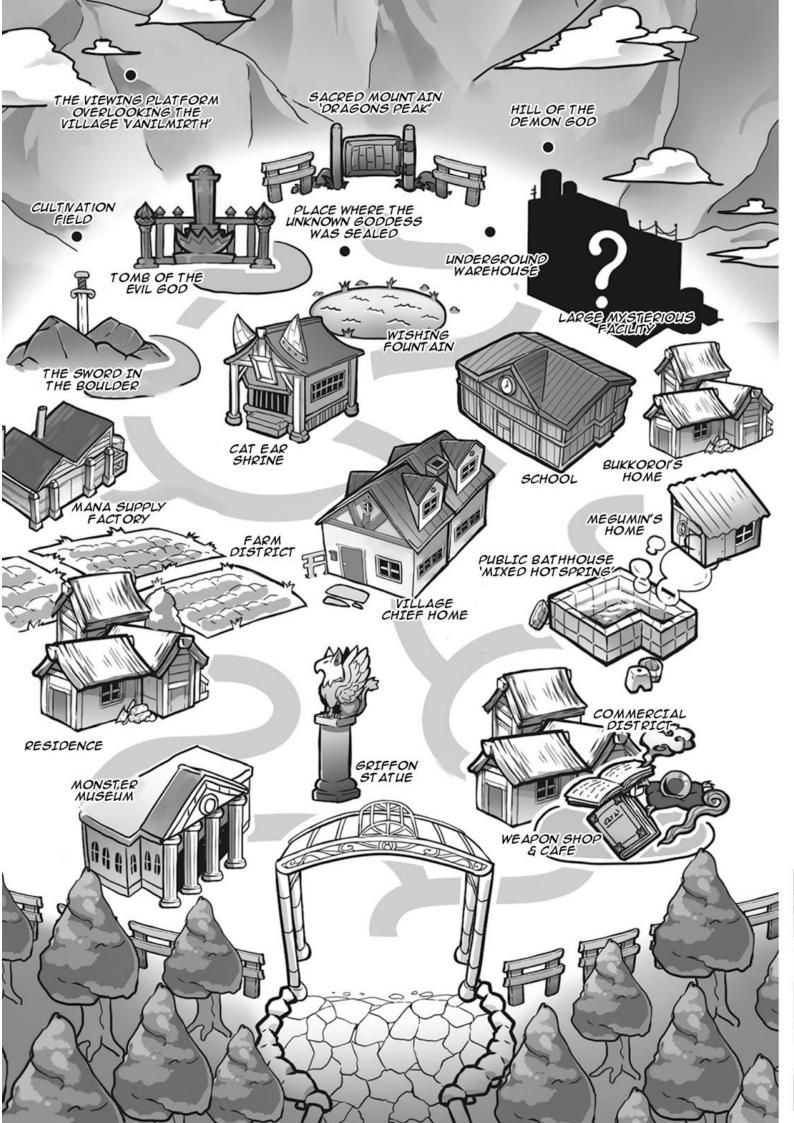
The home of the Crimson
Magic also has a high level
education institute that
nurtures Archwizards. I will
introduce the future
Archwizards studying here.
The great person who will
defeat the Demon King might
right here.



'THE NUMBER ONE GENIUS OF THE CRIMSON MAGIC' EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW OF A GREAT ALUMNI!

That's right. I am the 'Number one genius of the Crimson Magic'. My goal is to be the 'strongest', I don't give a damn about learning something as common as advance magic.







WHAT ...? NO MATTER WHAT, I WILL MAKE YOU GIVE UP ON MEETING THE PRINCESS - I WON'T LET YOU GO TO THE CAPITAL!

> SPEAKING OF WHICH, HAVE YOU GOTTEN THAT THREE HUNDRED MILLION FROM THAT DEVIL AS AGREED, KAZUMA-SAN?

> > THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS ...

YES, I RECEIVED IT, AFTER ADDING IN SYLVIA'S BOUNTY, I AM FILTHY RICH!

THEN YOU DON'T NEED TO WORK OR GO OUTSIDE ANY MORE, SO FROM NO ON-

HOW ABOUT INVITING THE FIRST PRINCESS TO COME OVER?

-MAGIC ITEM!

HMM, HOW SHOULD WE GO ABOUT THIS ...

VISIT THE CAPITAL HUH ...

